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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Twenty-third session of the Commission/ fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers

Niamey, Niger
14-18 April 1988

Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

LC/NAIROBI

REPORT OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN PLANNERS, STATISTICIANS AND DEMOGRAPHERS

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* E/ECA/TPCW.9/1/Rev.1.

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1. The fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers was held at ECA headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 21 to 28 March 1988. The meeting was opened by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The session was attended by representatives of the following member States of the Commission: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. The following member States of the United Nations were represented by observers: Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United Kingdom.

4. There were representatives from the United Nations Statistical Office, the United Nations Population Division and the United Nations Department for Technical Co-operation and Development (DTCD).

5. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were represented. The session was attended by representatives of the following specialized agencies: the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Bank and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

6. The following inter-governmental bodies were represented: Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP), the Arab League, the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), Union douanière et économique de l'Afrique centrale (UDEAC), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Institut du Sahel/Comité permanente inter-Etats de lutte contre la sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS).

7. The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was represented at the conference.

8. Observers were present from Centre européen de formation des statisticiens économistes de pays en voie de developpenent (CESD) Paris, Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre (EASTC); Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan; International Development Research Centre (IDRC); Institut national de statistique et des études économiques(INSEE),France; Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE); Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for developing countries; Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC); United States Bureau of the Census; Statistics Sweden; Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA); University of Ibadan and African Statistical Association (AFSA); Union for African Population Studies (UAPS); Institut de formation et de recherche démographiques (IFORD); Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), International Statistical Institute (ISI), International Union for the Scientific Study of Population (IUSSP).

9. Mr. Marcel Mouelle (Congo) was elected Chairperson of the Joint Conference with Mr. Mitik Beyene (Ethiopia) and Mr. E.O. Ambah (Nigeria) as first and second Vice-Chairperson respectively and Mr. L.T. Tuoane (Lesotho) as Rapporteur.

B. AGENDA

10. The Joint Conference adopted the following agenda:

Plenary meeting

1. Opening address
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Progress in recovery
    (a) The review of economic and social conditions in Africa (1986-1987)
    (b) The debt problem: measurement, management and development implications
5. Beyond recovery: ECA's perspectives of Africa's development 1988-2008
6. Monitoring the social dimensions of structural adjustment
    (a) Report of the Khartoum meeting on "The International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development"
    (b) Food and Nutrition Surveillance
7. Technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information science

Planning committee

8. Election of officers
9. Sectoral planning in sub-regional co-operative arrangements
10. Critical review of current national development planning practices in Africa
11. Report of the workshop on multi-sectoral planning models
12. Africa and global modelling systems
13. Report of the Institute for Economic Development and Planning
14. Report of ECA planning activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991).
15. Adoption of the report

Statistics committee

16. Election of officers
17. Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows: statistical deficiencies and recommendations
18. Evaluation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa
19. Report on statistical activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
20. Adoption of the report

Demography committee

21. Election of officers
22. Population dynamics:
    (a) Population dynamics in the context of socio-economic development planning
    (b) Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries
23. Population distribution, redistribution and drought
    (a) Evaluation of population distribution and redistribution policies
    (b) Population and drought
24. ECA regional population training and research institutes
25. Report on population activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
26. Adoption of the report

Information science committee

27. Election of officers
28. Training facilities available for the training of information and documentation scientists in Africa
29. Report on PADIS activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991)
30. Adoption of the report

Planning and statistics (Joint committee meeting)

31. (a) Application of accounting frameworks to national planning
    (b) Short-term economic forecasting and outlook

Statistics and Demography (Joint committee meeting)

32. Review of demographic data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination during the period 1982-1987: issues and problems

Planning and Demography (Joint committee meeting)

33. (a) Guidelines for integrating population variables in development planning for ECA member States
    (b) Implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population
    (c) Population projections and national development planning

Demography and Information Science (Joint committee meeting)

34. Activities of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)

Statistics and Information Science (Joint committee meeting)

35. (a) Progress report on the ECA Statistical Data Base (PADIS-STAT)
    (b) Use of micro-computers in statistics and information systems

Planning and Information Science (Joint committee meeting)

36. The supportive role of adequate documentation for plan preparation, implementation and monitoring

Resumed plenary meeting

37. Other business
38. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Joint Conference
39. Review of committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions
40. Report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers

C. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

Plenary Session

Opening address (agenda item 1)

11. The session was opened by Mr. Adebayo Adedeji, ECA Executive Secretary who welcomed participants and recalled the 13th Special Session of the UN General Assembly on the African Economic Crisis which had resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development, 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD).

12. He informed the meeting that the 42nd session of the UN General Assembly had set up a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of UNPAAERD and that the UN Interagency Task Force under the leadership of ECA is currently preparing the mid-term review. To this end ECA depended on information on the most relevant trends of country`s economic, social and environmental conditions. He requested those delegations whose countries had not responded to the mid-term review questionnaire on UNPAAERD to ensure that the completed questionnaires would be returned to ECA at the latest by end of March 1988. He expressed the hope that in this year of its 30th anniversary, ECA would make an important contribution towards reaching the objectives set out in UNPAAERD.

13. The Executive Secretary then turned to the substantive issues of the Conference with the focus on "Progress in Recovery". He pointed to important developments which have since the last Joint Conference affected African economic and social life as well as environmental conditions. In particular, great sacrifices had been made by African countries under structural adjustment,

economic recovery and economic stabilization programmes. Efforts continued in combating drought and desertification. He invited participants to critically study the report on Africa's development perspectives which, at the request of the ninth meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers, is prepared by ECA every five years. He further pointed to the need to review and re-evaluate national economic planning strategies in the light of the goals and objectives set out in the Lagos Plan of Action. To this end, a report on current planning practices in the African region would be presented for consideration by the meeting. He reminded participants that Africa is part of an interdependent world and that its economy therefore needed to be properly reflected in global modelling systems. As was shown in the pertinent report, much needed to be done in this field and proposals on further action should emerge from this meeting.

14. Regarding the area of statistical development, the Executive Secretary emphasized the need for further progress. All planners recognized that their work could not be satisfactorily carried out without adequate statistical information. In this connection, he again mentioned problems encountered by the UN Interagency Task Force on the follow-up to the UNPAAERD, of which he is chairperson, in reviewing the progress in the implementation of UNPAAERD.

15. Because of the need to provide adequate qualitative and quantitative information for development planning at all levels, the UNDP, the World Bank and ECA prepared a document on "Data collection in relation to development programmes and aid flows" which examines existing institutional arrangements in the statistical field and proposes measures to strengthen them. He requested participants to review the report and to formulate further recommendations on this issue.

16. On environment statistics, he pointed to the crucial need to compile indicators on drought and desertification. In addition, environment statistics should be developed within natinal statistical services of the countries. To this end, he outlined a range of proposed measures aimed at providing technical assistance to the countries. However, in order to fully implement a comprehensive programme, external funding would be needed. The views of the meeting on these initiatives would be taken into account in refining the target and procedural aspects of the draft programme developed by the Secretariat.

17. In the field of population studies and policies, he noted that the problems of high population growth rates, high fertility levels and refugee flows continued to remain critical. Regional trends had not changed much since the last Joint Conference. He emphasized the need to integrate population factors into the process of development planning of the member States to solve these problem.

18. He pointed to the growing number of countries which have formulated policies to reduce population growth rates, to promote the reduction of fertility and the deceleration of rural-urban migration. Although this indicated a commendable shift in the perception by member States of their population problem, further improvement was still required.

19. Referring to the sixth session of the Conference of Ministers, the Executive Secretary reminded the meeting of the decision to expand the Joint Conference by including in its work experts in the fields of documentation, computer and information science. In connection with the contribution of information scientists to the development process, he hoped that the participants would agree that the name of the Joint Conference should now be Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists.

20. The Joint Conference has monitored the execution of the Pan-African Documentation and Information System (PADIS) programme. The Executive Secretary further noted that PADIS had made significant achievements in the areas of training, data base development and the provision of technical assistance to member States and that it had helped in establishing a unified approach to information systems development. In addition, ECA as executing agency for several externally funded projects is promoting the integration of information systems. In this connection, the seventh meeting of Chief Executives of ECA-Sponsored Regional and Sub-regional Institutions decided to establish a standing committee on the harmonization and standardization of information systems of those institutions.

21. He recalled that the formulation of a regional technical committee of PADIS was adopted by the nineteenth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers upon recommendation by the Joint Conference. Members of the committee are appointed by the Conference of Ministers upon the nomination of the Joint Conference and remain in office for four years. In view of the fact that the term of office of the current members of the committee had ended, the Joint Conference would have the additional responsibility of nominating new members for the committee.

22. The Executive Secretary then turned to addressing the problems being faced by the three ECA-sponsored institutions which are of direct concern to the Joint Conference: Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP), Institut de formation et de recherche demographiques (IFORD) and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).

23. He called to the attention of the participants that all three institutions were confronted with serious funding problems as a result of the discontinuation of UNDP support in the case of IDEP,and as a result of non-payment of dues of a large number of member States in the case of IFORD and RIPS.

24. While countries were urged to contribute financially to IDEP to compensate for discontinued UNDP funding which would become effective in 1990-1991. ECA would endeavour to assist in securing the allocation of resources to the Institute. The case of IFORD needed to be addressed with even greater urgency as its survival was called into question within a few months if member States did not honour their obligations. The Executive Secretary further pointed out that only due to the generous support of Ghana and Nigeria could RIPS continue to render its valuable services to English-speaking African countries.

25. In concluding, the Executive Secretary made an urgent appeal to member States to give meaning to the intentions of increasing regional co-operation in the areas addressed by this meeting by supporting these institutions. Given the contribution which these institutions were making to African development, the co-operation of delegations in ensuring that payments were made in due course was therefore of utmost importance.

The review of economic and social conditions in Africa
(agenda item 4(a))

26. The secretariat introduced this point of the agenda based on document E/ECA/PSD.5/2 and apologized that only the English version could be made available at this point. In summarizing the report the secretariat stated that the economic situation in the region in 1987 had been disappointing as the expected recovery had failed to materialize. Growth of regional output was estimated at only 0.8 percent, which meant that income per capita had dropped by 2.2 percent. Among the factors instrumental in the poor performance of the region were the return of drought in several countries, particularly serious in famine-threatened regions of Ethiopia and Mozambique; the depressed demand for oil; the lower prices of such key commodities as coffee, cocoa and tea; the fall in the dollar exchange rate; and the burden of debt service. The sharp rise in the price of some metals, especially copper, brought relief only to a few countries.

27. Concerning debt, the representative of the secretariat indicated that the size of debt for the whole region at the end of 1987 was estimated at US$ 218.1 billion. This represented 70 percent of regional output and nearly 3 times the total of regional exports. Debt service reached US$ 26.5 billion representing 35.8 percent of exports.

28. The secretariat gave an account of the current adjustment efforts of African governments. On this matter it stated that there was a wide consensus among governments on the necessity of adjustment and on the broad lines of adjustment programmes. This could be witnessed through the programmes in the context of APPER and UNPAEERD and by the large number of governments implementing adjustment programmes. He further stated that social consequences of adjustment posed a serious problem. These were mainly related to income re-distribution, but governments were by nature obliged to deal with the demands of the social groups which were losing, even on a short-term basis. The secretariat gave some examples of reforms introduced recently in the public sector and pointed to the necessity of providing a stable and manageable solution to the debt service question in the framework of adjustment programmes.

29. Regarding the economic prospects of the region for the year 1988, he stated that a rather optimistic scenario had been used. On that basis, regional output would grow by 2.7 percent in 1988, with a strong rebound of domestic demand and exports, which implied in turn a rise in imports to accommodate rising investment and consumption. The secretariat stressed, however, that a recession in the industrialised countries in 1988 would have disastrous consequences for African countries, with growth falling to 1-1.5 percent.

30. The delegates commended the secretariat for the good quality of the review presented to them but deplored that only the English version of the document was available. Concentrating on the adjustment problem, the delegates called on the secretariat to conduct a review of current adjustment programs in order to analyze their effects and effectiveness.

31. A number of delegations made specific queries regarding details of the report: the delegate from Morocco questioned the statment about a famine threat in his country and stated that such an eventuality had never occurred. Clarifications was requested on the issue of the appreciation of the CFA franc against the US dollar, when it was known that the CFA was linked to the French Franc in a fixed relationship. One delegate also asked how the debts of public enterprises were financed once they were privatised and further queried whether the increase of imports, implied in the scenario for 1988, was to be seen as a desirable development.

32. It was pointed out that households were coping much better than the public sector, or sectors depending on public demand, with the current crisis. This was due to the fact that households relied on informal economic activities. The

secretariat was urged to give more prominence to this fact in future surveys of economic and social conditions in Africa. It was further stated that, in view of the current economic conditions, the presented prospects were probably too optimistic. The secretariat was asked about a study on drought and famine in African countries that it was to have undertaken according to the deliberations of the previous session of the Conference of Ministers. Finally, one delegate indicated that some of the classifications used by the secretariat, particularly the one between North Africa on the one hand and Sub-Saharan Africa on the other, were not relevant.

33. In reply, the secretariat informed the delegates that the Commission had initiated a project funded by UNDP on adjustment programmes in Africa which would address their request for a comprehensive review. He stated that privatisation was only one part of public sector reforms. As for the specific treatment of public sector debts it was a matter decided by countries on case-by-case basis and he could therefore not give a general answer.

34. The appreciation of the CFA franc towards the dollar meant that export receipts, already affected by lower prices, had fallen further when converted into local currencies. The statement of rising imports in the context of favourable prospects for 1988 was not based on a value judgement as to the desirability of higher imports. It was moreover derived from the structure of the African economies which, particularly in their industrial sector, relied heavily on imported inputs. The secretariat welcomed the suggestion concerning the need to cover informal sector activities. He pointed out, however, that coverage and analysis would be difficult because of the lack of data.

35. Regarding the prospects for 1988, he called for caution on the rather optimistic character of the basic assumptions. However, a rate of 2.7 percent of GDP growth would still be below the population growth rate estimated at above 3 percent. In addition, such rates were very low for the African region, and could not be compared with similar rates for industrialised countries such as the United States.

36. Concerning the coverage of drought and famine, the secretariat stated that the resolution taken on environment by the last session of the Conference of Ministers was being implemented by the Commission. In addition, the forthcoming Economic Report on Africa, jointly prepared by

the ECA and the ADB, would contain a special study on environment in the region. He further pointed out that there had been a misunderstanding concerning drought in Morocco and that he had never implied or intended to imply that there was any famine threat in Morocco. In fact, the text of the document was quite clear on this.

37. On the problem of country classifications, the secretariat indicated that the concept of Sub-Saharan Africa related to a geographical reality as well as to a different level of economic development and structure as compared to North Africa. It did not imply any separation between the two areas. He further stated that this classification was also widely used by other entities of the UN system like the World Bank and the IMF as well as by major institutions, like OECD and EEC, which are active in development assistance.

Africa's debt problem: measurement, management and development implications (agenda item 4(b))

38. The secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.5/3 entitled "Africa's Debt Problem: Measurement, Management and Development Implications". The document was in three sections: (i) definition, concept and measurement of external debt, (ii) effects of debt service on Africa's economic recovery and development, and (iii) management of Africa's external debt.

39. The secretariat explained the methodology which ECA uses and proposes to member States in order to understand the debt concept, its measurement, its management and its impact on development.

40. The commonly accepted definition refers to Africa's external debt broadly as comprising all its external financial obligations outstanding at a particular point in time.

41. On the basis of this general definition, further elaborated in paragraph 6 of the document, a list of financial terms generally used in debt statistics is set out, bearing in mind the methods of data collection and the harmonised debt components. A classification of debt based on structure was then put forward.

42. On the evaluation of debt, the document proposed the use of a mathematical model based on the above definition and on the fundamental principles of debt structure. A basic concern was the effect of debt servicing on the economic recovery and development of Africa. In reviewing the debt service situation by the year 2000, with or without external relief, the document enumerated causes of the debt crisis.

43. The recommendations for the improvement of debt management were based on the necessity for an in-depth examination of the total overall indebtedness of any country in line for a new loan, of its ability to repay and of the profitability of the projects to be financed. To this end, appropriate national debt monitoring services were indispensable in any effective management strategy.

44. Since the presentation of the document follows a series of international debates organised within the African context and that of other developing countries, participants wondered whether it was opportune to discuss the document or whether it should be regarded as basic information, since the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) had already expressed its policy on the problem.

45. After an exchange of ideas, the meeting declared itself in favour of discussing the technical aspects of the document in order to draw lessons and information leading to a better knowledge of debt mechanisms, measurement, management and solutions, as well as to exchange experiences.

46. During the debate, several participants expressed the opinion that the document should lay more emphasis on the techniques for mobilizing domestic resources for development.

47. The mobilization of external financial resources must carefully identify sources of soft loans. For that to be possible, projects must be chosen and designed which will attract external loans and allocate the income arising from the loans to priority sectors favouring economic recovery and the self-sustaining growth of the country.

48. Various questions were addressed to the secretariat, particularly on such aspects as (1) the reaction of the international community to Africa's Priority Programme as set out in paragraph 35, (2) Africa's position in the global strategy for solving the debt crisis, and (3) essential criteria in estimating repayment capability.

49. The secretariat replied that paragraph 35 dealt with a scenario and that the response of the international community was tied to exogenous factors and variables.

50. The secretariat further stated that Africa's actions were not taken in isolation, but had to be seen in the overall context of negotiations with the other regions of the developing world.

51. On the evaluation of the capabilities and criteria for repayment, the secretariat pointed to the basic information on this question to be found in the feasibility studies which preceded all loan requests.

52. Finally, the meeting recommended that planning should be enriched with new concepts and thus become more interested in the fundamental structural changes of African economies. In that regard, more emphasis should be put on a new approach to the preparation of development plans taking due account of the debt capacity of the borrowing African countries.

Beyond Recovery: ECA Revised Perspectives of Africa's Development 1988-2008 (agenda item 5)

53. The secretariat introduced document E/ECA/PSD.5/4 entitled "Beyond Recovery: ECA Revised Perspectives of Africa's Development 1988-2008" and referred to the ECA Conference of Ministers Resolution 470(XVIII) which calls for the updating of the study entitled "ECA and Africa's development 1983-2000: a preliminary perspective study" every five years. The crisis which hit the region in 1983, particularly the 1984-85 drought, and the adoption of recovery programmes by African countries would have necessitated revision. The revised perspective remains the same both in terms of analysis and methodology as the previous study. However the study covers many social, technological, ecological and economic aspects that were not covered in the earlier study.

54. The secretariat said that the study first analysed the sombre situation that had plagued the African region during 1980-1987, in particular the deep recession of 1980-1982, the drought of 1983-1985, and the poor performance in 1986-1987 (in the first two years of the implementation of APPER and UNPAAERD). From these developments two lessons emerged: (a) economic performance in Africa has fluctuated with weather conditions, (b) the overwhelming vulnerability of the African economies to the effects of international economic environment. It is these two questions that set the background for the examination of the prospects for recovery under the assumption of a failure to achieve any significant improvement in these two areas or a general improvement in both.

55. As such, Section I of Part II examines the implications of continued bad weather and continued deterioration in international economic relations. The picture that emerges by 1990 pointed to a decidedly unsustainable situation even if the African governments pursued appropriate development policies as called for in the recovery programmes. Under the continuation of the two constraining trends, the picture shown by the scenario is in many respects similar if not worse than the one that had prevailed during the drought period. In contrast, Section II of Part II analyses the recovery process free from the traps of the structural dependence on such forces as those of nature or external benefactors. Therefore, the assumptions that underlie the forecasts relate to an overall achievement of agricultural policy reforms, normality of weather conditions, other policy reforms in the sectors that support agriculture, and the emergence of an enabling external economic environment especially as regards the flow of resources. Overall, the implication for such domestic and international policy changes are that there will be a marked improvement in the socio-economic structures which will become capable of sustaining growth and recovery.

56. Part III deals with long-term development perspectives under a historical and a normative scenario. Section I of Part III attempts to reflect on some of the main parameters of a multi-constrained development under the assumption of a continuation of the historical trends up to the next century and beyond. The historical trends scenario points to a situation when Africa would be chronically in economic difficulties. Therefore a change must be established in Africa at all levels to ensure that Africa escapes the sombre possibility of not seeing the emergence of genuine development in the coming next twenty years. These required changes are the postulates of the normative scenario which is fully analysed in Section II of Part III based on the prospects of a radical change.

57. The development scenario not only aims at keeping the momentum and the rythm through recovery but also at ensuring economic and social transformation by the year 2008. Thus, the scenario assumes radical changes in the structures of production and demand. To this end, the macro-economic normative scenario rests primarily on the objective of doubling the level of per capita income by the year 2008 in line with the aim of raising the standard of living of the African population. To realize such targets, much would depend on the consistent restructuring and reordering of the inter-sectoral priorities so that the region's output would be maximized and its economies be made less vulnerable to climatic, domestic and external shocks and disequilibria. Moreover, these radical developments in the domestic structures would be supported by accelerated actions to foster economic and social integration of the continent.

58. To turn the present hopes for a better future into reality, the required actions to initiate change should be taken up with vigour and resolution at all levels, national, subregional, regional and international levels. This is the subject matter of Part IV.

59. The secretariat further mentioned that this study is meant to serve as a methodological framework for establishing perspectives and outlook systems at the national, institutional and subregional levels and reiterated that ECA would make every effort possible to provide technical assistance whenever called upon to do so, thus responding to the ECA Conference of Ministers Resolution 501(XIX) which appeals to member States to undertake perspective studies taking into particular account the effect of drought and desertification as well as the vulnerability of African economies to the international economic environment. Such technical assistance actvities would, however, require the strengthening of the capacity of ECA in terms of human and financial resources.

60. Finally, the secretariat informed participants that their comments would be submitted to the Conference of Ministers in Niamey next month.

61. In the discussion that followed, delegates generally commended the secretariat for the comprehensive and informative document. Questions were, however, raised on a number of points. First, the very notion of a recovery having taken place was questioned in relation with the title of the study, and one delegate indicated that in this respect that subsection I of Part I was wrongly titled "Emerging from the crisis, 1986-1987" when it was known that this was not the case. Clarifications were requested on the methods used for the projections given in the study, and in particular it was pointed out that there was some lack of consistency in the classifications of GDP variables. It was not clear what variables were exogenous or endogenous. The delegate of Morocco expressed its reservations on paras 211 p.72 and para 438 p.156 of the document which, he noted, omitted any mention of Morocco`s participation in the Trans-African Highway Programme. He further pointed out that the study did not give sufficient weight to science and technology. He also raised the question of how the normative scanario would be achieved. The delegate of Zaire mentioned that he had some problems with the last part of the document at page 184, and asked whether the document was submitted for information or an in-depth examination. The CILSS delegate indicated that no reference has been made to projections made in collaboration with ECA for the CILSS region.

62. The secretariat replied to the questions raised by the delegates indicating that the document submitted was for an in-depth examination as far as possible, and that in fact further comments were expected from countries, possibly in a written form. The document will again be discussed at the forthcoming session of the ECA Conference of Ministers in Niamey. It was clear that subsection I of Part I was wrongly titled and this would be corrected. Concerning the methodology used, the secretariat has used a mix of formal econometric approaches and non-econometric methods. The secretariat recognized the key role of science and technology in development, but it was a factor difficult to quantify. Concerning the Zaire delegate's specific question, the secretariat requested further explanation.

63. The Zaire delegate pointed to paragraph 537, page 188, mentioning the OAU secretariat, which evidently required correction. Other delegates referred to the apparent inconsistency in the demographic assumptions used: in one part reference was made to the high variant of the UN population projections for Africa, while in other parts of the document the medium-variant was used. Some participants expressed doubts on the possibility of economic recovery in the framework of capitalism. The UNIDO representative expressed his disappointment with the industrial policies outlined in the conclusion and on the lack of clarity of the import substitution alluded. He also remarked that no allowance was made in the document for possible errors in the underlying statistics. The representative of WFP indicated that the analysis of the causes of drought contained in the document was not consonant with accepted wisdom: "drought was not so much a weather problem as a reflection of the overall economic crisis".

Monitoring the social dimension of structural adjustment (agenda item 6)

64. In introducing the two subitems under agenda item 6, the chairperson noted that there would be three speakers, representing the secretariat, UNICEF and the World Bank respectively, and that the discussion of all three items would take place following the three presentations.

65. Under agenda item 6a the secretariat introduced the report of the International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development entitled The Khartoum Declaration: Towards a Human-focused Approach to Socio-Economic Recovery and Development in Africa.

66. The Conference, held in Khartoum during 5-8 March 1988, was organized by the United Nations System under the auspices of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on the follow-up of the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development - 1986-1990 (UNPAAERD) at the regional level, as part of the follow-up on the implementation of UNPAAERD and as a sequel to the International Conference on Africa: The Challenge of Economic Recovery and Accelerated Development, held in Abuja, Nigeria in June 1987. It was organized because of the concern for the human dimension in development in Africa, which has been much neglected as a result of the socio-economic crisis which has been ravaging Africa and some of the structural adjustment measures that have been pursued.

67. The secretariat informed the participants that the Declaration contains an overall assessment of the human conditions in Africa and of the human dimension of structural adjustment programmes, as well as sections containing detailed recommendations and conclusions and follow-up. The recommendations addressed themselves to actions needed at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels in the following areas: (i) incorporating the human factor in the recovery and structural adjustment- process; (ii) paying special attention to the social sector and the vulnerable groups; and (iii) manpower development and Utilization for the long-term. Recommendations on the role of regional, international and non-governmental organizations in support of human development were also made. The concluding part of the Declaration affirms that the human dimension is the sine qua non of economic recovery and sets forthr mechanisms for follow-up action.

68. The secretariat concluded by informing the meeting that the Khartoum Declaration was subsequently endorsed by the Third Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Resources Planning, Development and Utilization. The Conference also adopted a resolution in which it decided to submit the Khartoum Declaration to the ECA Conference of Ministers at its 30th Anniversary meeting which was requested to transmit it to the Ad hoc Committee of the Whole, set up by the General Assembly of the UN to undertake the mid-term review on the implementation of UNPAAERD and through it to the 43rd Session of the General Assembly. The Conference further urged member States, international institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and organizations of the UN System to implement urgently the recommendations of the Declaration, and requested the Executive Secretary to disseminate the Declaration as widely as possible. He was further requested to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Khartoum Declaration.

69. The meeting took note of the Khartoum Declaration and of the resolution.

70. The UNICEF representative noted UNICEF's pleasure to take part in the Joint Conference particularly in view of UNICEF's concern to focus attention and action on the human dimensions of the economic recovery programmes and development in Africa. The UNICEF representative introduced the background paper for agenda item 6(b) entitled "Monitoring human and social indicators in the adjustment process: Food and nutrition surveillance". (E/ECA/PSD.5/56). She noted the call to action in the Khartoum declaration, at the fourth session of the Joint Conference and by the delegates in the present meeting.

71. She stressed that cost-effective, sustainable monitoring systems were needed which would build upon and make the best use of the existing infrastructure of national governments. Such systems could meet short-term needs but, more importantly, monitor social conditions over the long term.

72. The UNICEF representative described briefly the role of food and nutrition surveillance and discussed the advantages of nutritional status indicators, among others, for monitoring the social dimensions during adjustment. She outlined the Inter-Agency Food and Nutrition Surveillance Programme (IFNS) which is a joint agency initiative by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, which was formally endorsed by the ACC Sub-Committee on Nutrition. The programme aims to assist a large number of countries during the next five years to strengthen food and nutrition surveillance systems with one important purpose being the monitoring of the impact of structural adjustment on the social condition of affected people.

73. The representative of the World Bank outlined the basic elements of the World Bank project on the social dimensions of structural adjustment in Sub-Saharan Africa (SDA). He noted that it was a generic region-wide endeavour to identify and design poverty alleviation measures. He described the project objectives and three streams of activity noting that a conceptual framework paper had been prepared. The three streams of activity included (1) identification, appraisal and maintenance of poverty alleviation programmes, (2) policy oriented studies and (3) development of statistical data bases. He also underlined the central role of permanent multi-topic household surveys on a broad range of indicators together with social accounting matrices updated annually with new household survey data.

74. During the discussion following the three presentations several major issues were raised by delegates. Most delegates stressed that loan funds should not be used to finance studies, surveys and monitoring of adjustment programmes. The delegates considered that grants should be available for this purpose, especially in view of the current economic situation in the countries.

75. Satisfaction was expressed on the reports presented. It was, however, emphasized that the two programmes - IFNS and SDA - needed to be co-ordinated and set in the context of national priorities. The UNICEF and World Bank representatives were requested to clarify these points.

76. The need to build on existing infrastructure was emphasized by several delegates. The problem was raised that, while existing institutions should do the monitoring, these institutions were often overstressed and that therefore careful study was needed before responding.

77. With particular reference to the SDA presentation, delegates welcomed the World Bank's interest in the human dimensions of the structural adjustment process, but pointed to the following issues of concern to them: the SDA project should be more aligned to the needs of countries and less to those of the World Bank; the project was yet another study with its associated teams of international experts and may not solve the problems arising from structural adjustment; the African Household Survey Capability Programme (AHSCP) already aims at developing national capacities for carrying out household surveys. Yet, the World Bank project does not seem to consider this point. The relationship between the AHSCP and the World Bank SDA project was therefore not clear.

78. In summing up the discussion and responding to the issues raised by the delegates, the representative of UNICEF noted that the details of the IFNS programme could be found in the background document (E/ECA/PSD.5/56), including the emphasis on strengthening national capabilities and the interest of the programme to build on existing infrastructure. The purpose of the programme was to support national interests. All financial support was in the form of grants. As far as the potential duplication with the SDA she explained that they were in fact complementary. Food and nutrition surveillance systems were more country-specific and within a broad context of community, sub-national and national contexts. A wide range of data sources would be used, mainly from sectoral administrative systems, although surveys would also be one source. On the other hand, surveillance systems were only one source of information to monitor the social dimensions of adjustment. For comparability

with information from surveillance and other sources, the SDA surveys should use standard measures of health and nutrition. The representative of WHO noted the need for a broader range of indicators assessing the environmental status, for example, in regard to water to complement the ones on food and nutrition.

79. The secretariat stressed the need for adopting a comprehensive and balanced approach to development and incorporating the human factor in the structural adjustment process and recovery and development. The World Bank representative, in replying to the issues raised, indicated that funding for SDA was partial loan, partial gift and underlined the importance of studies to guide decisions. He stressed the willingness of the World Bank to work with countries through using national and international experts.

Technical and financial assistance in planning, statistics, demography, and information sciences (agenda item 7)

80. For the discussion of this item, the Conference had at its disposal two documents: "ECA's Technical Assistance in Planning, Statistics, Demography and Information Sciences" (E/ECA/PSD.5/5) and "United Nations Technical Co-operation relating to Development Planning, Statistics and Population in Africa, 1986-87" (E/ECA/PSD.5/6). The latter was prepared by the United Nations Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD) and was introduced by the Director of the UN Statistical Office on behalf of DTCD, at the request of the ECA secretariat. The former was introduced by the secretariat. The representative of DTCD introduced the document by highlighting how actively DTCD was participating in response to the United Nations Programme for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations Special Action Programme for Administration and Management in Africa in the overall context of African crisis. He noted that total technical co-operation delivered to African countries by DTCD was US$ 58.7 million in 1986 and US$ 64.5 million in 1987.

81. In complying with a request made by the Conference during the fourth Session, the representative of DTCD gave a breakdown by components, namely, personnel, training, equipment, and sub-contract and others, of the technical assistance delivered by DTCD during the reporting period. It was reported that about 40% of the total assistance delivered by DTCD in 1986 was for the Africa region. The figure rose to 47% in 1987. It was also observed that the personnel component, including the local personnel costs, was about 45% of the total assistance given to African countries, and that the training component rose by 23% in 1987 compared to that in 1986.

82. With a brief reference to the diversity of work undertaken by DTCD, he then summarized the DTCD activities in the fields of development planning, statistics and population, the three areas of major interest to the Joint Conference.

83. In the area of development planning, during the reporting period DTCD provided assistance in 64 projects (including some new projects with execution to begin shortly) in 31 countries in Africa. In keeping with the current trend in the nature of assistance required, DTCD's support was increasingly turning to more specialized areas where critical needs were felt. These included investment project planning (project identification, preparation and evaluation), financial planning (including foreign exchange), annual or operative planning, foreign debt management, and negotiation and planning for optimal co-ordination and utilization of external financial and technical assistance.

84. With regard to statistics, the DTCD representative pointed out that inspite of serious efforts, shortages in human and financial resources were still a persistent problem in the statistical offices of the region. The Department was executing 81 projects in 42 countries of Africa in December 1987. In addition, there were global or interregional programmes of DTCD which contributed substantially to the statistical development of the countries. Two of these, namely, the National Household Survey Capability Programme and the workshops organized by DTCD, were highlighted along with a brief description of the project on census training in sub-Saharan Africa, which was supported by the Government of Canada under a multi-bi arrangement with UNFPA.

85. With respect to population, detailed description was provided on the DTCD work in the areas of demographic and population training, analysis of demographic data and studies of population and development factors necessary for formulation and implementation of population policies and the integration of population in national development planning. In 1986-87 DTCD executed 63 country projects in 34 countries in Africa, and 9 interregional projects on training and demographic analysis for African participants. The number of resident international advisers decreased from 28 in 1984-85 to 19 in 1986-87. It was noted that during the period 1986-87, increased use was made of computer software packages, especially those developed by DTCD, in the analysis of census data, evaluation of demographic data, preparation of population projections, estimation of fertility and mortality levels etc. The participants interested to receive more details on the available software packages were requested to write to DTCD directly.

86. In conclusion of his presentation, the DTCD representative underscored some practical points with regard to the implementation of technical co-operation projects. These were the need for quick response to the list of recommended candidates for expert posts, the timely submission of fellowship nomination forms for placement, and the importance of providing accurate and detailed specifications of needed equipment within the project budget. He also stressed the importance that DTCD placed on co-ordination and collaboration with other international and bilateral organizations involved in technical co-operation.

87. The secretariat then presented the documents E/ECA/PSD.5/5 and E/ECA/PSD.5/5 Add.1 entitled respectively ECA`s Technical Assistance in Planning, Statistics, Demography and Information Sciences and ECA`s Technical Assistance in Planning. He pointed out that the technical assistance delivered by ECA during 1986-1987 in the fields indicated above continued to focus on strengthening national capabilities so that the African countries will be less dependent on external technical assistance and will become self-sufficient within a reasonable period of time. In this connection, more than 200 advisory missions were provided to countries of the region in these fields during the period under reference to backstop their development efforts.

88. The secretariat further indicated that training in planning, statistics, demography and information sciences also continued to receive high priority in the ECA technical assistance activities. This was done through the relevant ECA sponsored institutions in Africa, namely the Institute for Development and Economic Planning (IDEP) in Dakar, Senegal, the Institut de formation et de recherche demographiques (IFORD), Yaounde, Cameroon, and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), Legon, Ghana. The secretariat also recalled that ECA ensures the co-ordination of the activities under the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (STPA) which currently comprises 15 participating centres and 7 associate centres. He further indicated that a number of training seminars and workshops were organized by ECA during the period under review in order to improve the skills and knowledge of the national staff working in the fields of planning, statistics, demography and information sciences. Finally, he noted that the advisory missions provided by ECA included in most cases on-the-job training.

89. In the discussions that followed, several representatives expressed appreciation for the technical and financial assistance provided to the member States and institutions by UNDP, UNFPA and other multilateral and bilateral donors. They were also pleased to note the support given by DTCD to the developing countries of the region.

90. At the same time, a number of delegates pointed out serious shortcomings they encountered in the technical co-operation activities of DTCD and others. In this regard, several representatives mentioned the high cost and limited value of external experts. They noted that in some cases certain international agencies insisted on projects where 80 percent or more of the budget was for the cost of international experts. It was suggested that the possibility of using national expertise available within the country in place of internationally recruited advisers be explored. It was noted that sometimes funding agencies favoured the placement of international experts in an important project for monitoring purposes. Specifically with respect to DTCD several countries pointed to difficulties encountered because of delays in authorization for local expenditure and because expenditures were in terms of rigid budget lines. The need for greater flexibility was stressed.

91. In addition some representatives complained about the delay in delivering the equipment and also lack of sufficient follow-up in the implementation of a project. In connection with the latter, difficulties arising from the absence of a DTCD representation in TPR's was noted. The difficulties in training statistical personnel due to lack of funds or due to inadequate number of fellowships were mentioned. Some delegates urged that the expert in a project must train the counterparts and must leave a document to be used for further training. A number of delegates also expressed appreciation for the quality of the technical assistance delivered by ECA but regretted that, in a number of cases, ECA and ILO/ECA advisers were not available at the time their services were required. The need for advisers in other fields, such as industrial and trade statistics, was also underlined.

92. The representative of ILO regretted any inconvenience caused by the lack of availability of the ILO/ECA regional adviser in household surveys due to heavy commitment to other country missions. There is only one such adviser in Africa. In respect of other areas of statistical assistance, the ILO representative mentioned the availability of the ILO regional adviser in labour statistics who is based in Dakar, Senegal.

93. Several delegates suggested that ECA should co-ordinate technical and financial assistance from various multilateral and bilateral donor agencies.

94. One observer remarked that there was a need for establishing linkages with African universities and government institutions for technical assistance activities with a view to ensuring a continuity in the programmes.

95. In response, the representative of DTCD noted that in the Africa region use of country experts in DTCD executed projects from developed countries had decreased substantially over the last decade and a half. Mention was made of the programme for the Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) and TCDC experts as a way of minimizing some of the disadvantages of external experts.

96. With regard to financial authorizations, he pointed out that the financial rules were established by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the Governing Council of the UNDP, and only within this framework could flexibility be maintained. Project work plans were developed as a tripartite agreement of the Government, the Funding Agency and the Executing Agency and agreement of all three partners would be required for changes of budget lines. Frequent communication would therefore be essential. He thanked the delegates for drawing attention to the cases where proper follow-up was not maintained in DTCD implementation of a project. With respect to the need for fellowships for training, he pointed out that several countries in Africa gave priority to this issue and formulated projects specifically for training; these requests received special attention of the funding agencies. He invited the delegates to meet with him personally to discuss individual cases.

97. The secretariat referred to the budgetary constraints of ECA, that had been impeding the recruitment of regional advisers in sufficient numbers in order to meet the country requests fully. In this connection, he pointed out that the continuation of the post of specialist in household surveys data processing, financed by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, was still uncertain and that this was a matter of great concern in view of the serious bottleneck at the data processing stage in many African countries. He also urged the countries of the region to send their requests for technical assistance to ECA at least two months in advance in order to facilitate the planning of the missions of the advisers.

98. The secretariat indicated that the primary responsibility for the co-ordination of external assistance to a country would rest with the government with ECA playing an advisory role and underscored the need for an efficient machinery at the national level for the required co-ordination.

99. In response to a request from one delegation about the PADIS programme of assistance, the secretariat informed participants that country's designation of a focal point would facilitate the delivery of technical assistance at the national level.

100. Representatives of various United Nations agencies, bilateral and other multilateral agencies and institutions described briefly their programmes of technical co-operation.

101. The representative of UNESCO stressed the importance of improving the availability of data on social fields of concern, and more precisely on education, science, culture and communication for proper social planning in the region. This implied a higher priority to be given by countries to the reinforcement of their statistical infrastructure. He later reported on the operational work undertaken by UNESCO with special reference to national training activities on data collection, analysis and micro-computer application and acknowledged the financial support of SIDA in this field. He further emphasized the need for improving working conditions of national statisticians on account of their role in the overall planning process. He finally emphasized the paramount importance of literacy as a pre-requisite for development and modernisation and requested a decisive effort in collecting data in this crucial area so as to allow a realistic strategy towards the eradication of illiteracy in the region.

102. The representative of FAO outlined assistance provided to the countries in the conduct of decennial agricultural censuses and the multi-year cycle of surveys. These have resulted in the dialogue between producers and users of statistics. FAO has increased its provision of technical assistance to the countries in the last two years in various fields of agricultural statistics. In addition, statistical information supplied by FAO had contributed to the formulation of the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER). Studies on the systems approach for the collection of agricultural statistics have been conducted, and study tours to broaden the experience of local experts as well as workshops on early warning systems and food information systems have been undertaken in CILSS countries. Mention was made of the inter-regional workshop on agricultural statistics held in Arusha, Tanzania in 1987 and the useful recommendations adopted by the meeting.

103. The representative of France outlined the assistance provided to African countries in the field of planning, statistics and demography. This assistance is provided in the framework of direct bilateral arrangement through the Ministry of Co-operation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Financial and technical assistance was also available through INSEE and ORSTOM. With the co-operation of the EEC, statistical teaching staff have been fielded to African countries. He mentioned that a total of ninety officials are working in different African countries providing logistic support, training on the job, etc. Training is also provided in France, and seminars and research work have been financed. in the field of demography, research work is being supported by ORSTOM.

104. The representative of the United Kingdom mentioned that the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) administers the country's technical and financial assistance in the fields of planning, statistics and demography. Support is provided in the development of national capabilities and institutions. This assistance is country-oriented and is increasingly being co-ordinated in the form of projects. He enumerated countries which have received assistance in the fields of planning, population and statistics. In the field of statistics, he mentioned that 50% of the funds provided during 1986 to African countries were for training mainly in institutions of the United Kingdom. Training in a third country is also provided but not many requests have been received. Mention was made of a full-time one year training programme being introduced during 1988 at Lancashire Polytechnic for the graduate diploma of the IOS qualification. He finally appealed to countries to submit their requests well in advance.

105. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany mentioned the high priority being given by his government to the provision of technical and financial assistance in the field of planning, statistics and demography. Out of the total amount spent in this area, 42% was directed to assisting African countries. Assistance has been provided in the form of advisory services within the framework of the bilateral arrangements or of requests forwarded through international agencies. He mentioned that the Munich Centre has provided advanced training to 522 statisticians from Africa in various areas of applied statistics.

106. The representative of the USSR stated that 1,600 students from different African countries were currently studying in his country in the fields of economics, planning and statistics. In addition, 450 students were undertaking university studies in the field of information science and data processing. Also, 143 students were studying in specialist institutions and had been given scholarships by the USSR Government. Seminars and workshops have also been conducted in the USSR. In this connection, the seminar on economic modelling and the working group on possible approaches to the integration of demographic, social and related economic statistics in development planning in Africa were mentioned. He finally indicated that USSR assistance is usually provided on a bilateral basis. Upon requests from ECA, methodological materials on research, etc. could be provided.

107. The representative of the Statistical Office of the European Communities (SOEC) stated that a sectoral approach is adopted in the provision of the required assistance in the areas of statistical training, external trade, prices, national accounts, etc. This technical assistance is provided in the form

of advisory services to the countries and through the collaboration with other member countries of the EEC. Usually the staff of the SOEC or consultants provide this assistance. The idea is to assist countries to develop their own capabilities. Countries are expected to request this assistance through the appropriate agencies in their governments.

108. The representative of UNIDO indicated that new approaches were being formulated by his organization in the field of industrial planning. He mentioned the "UNIDO PLAN" programme which aims at harmonizing efforts towards the strengthening of industrial planning. In this programme UNIDO will play the catalytic role by promoting international co-operation in the field of advanced planning methodologies and computer aided tools.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Election of officers (Agenda item 8)

109. Mr. Mourad Labidi (Algeria) was elected Chairperson of the Planning Committee with Mr. Michael Pondo (Kenya) Vice-Chairperson. Mr. B. Kazimbaya (Rwanda) was elected as rapporteur.

110. The Planning Committee followed the agenda (items 8-15) as it was adopted by the Planning Section of the Fifth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

Sectoral Planning in Subregional Cooperation Arrangements (Agenda item 9)

111. The secretariat presented the document E/ECA/PSD.5/7 entitled "Sectoral Planning in Subregional Co-operative Arrangements" and said that this paper is a continuation of the 1986 paper which dealt with the subregional co-operation in the field of agricultural and industrial development. This time concentration is made on the sectors of transport and communications, trade and customs. Since the issues of transport and communications, trade and customs are very complex and differ from one subregion to the other, separate reports dealing with subregional concerns in transport and communications, trade and customs were provided and the main report is the summary of the following detailed subregional reports: "Sectoral Planning in Subregional Arrangements Transport and Communications and trade: case of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)" (E/ECA/PSD.5/7/Add.1); "Sectoral Planning in Subregional Arrangements; Transport and Communications and

Trade: Case of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)" (E/ECA/PSD.5/7/Add.2); "Sectoral Planning in Subregional Arrangements; Transport and Communications, Trade and Commerce: Case of Preferential trade Areas for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA)" (E/ECA/PSD.5/7/Add.3); and "Towards the Establishment of Preferential Trade Area for North African States" (E/ECA/PSD.5/7/ Add.4).

112. The secretariat pointed out that the central objective of economic integration everywhere is to enable the countries agreeing to it to achieve, individually and collectively, higher rates of progress than they could attain in isolation, since the widening of internal and subregional market offers an opportunity to specialize in the production of different goods and services and to reach a higher level of efficiency. The benefits of wider internal subregional market can accrue only if barriers to the internal movement of trade and commerce and labour are removed or substantially reduced as well as restrictions on current payments transactions and on capital movements and a common tariff is established against the external world.

113. However, the integration in Africa has another more pertinent dimension than in developed countries of Western Europe for instance. In Africa, the economic planners have to give as much attention to creating the structures of integration as to uniting them. The various alternative development approaches adopted by African countries - namely the export-oriented strategy, the import substitution industrialization, the export promotion strategy, the redeployment strategy - have still not succeeded in transforming their economies. Thus the only solution remained to achieving sustainable growth and development is to design collectively a process of development based on own resource endowment and technological achievement which calls for greater co- operation among African countries.

114. However, some of the efforts of integration made so far in the past survived and other have died. Fortunately, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos came along the revive the African economic integration process through the strengthening and establishing the economic groupings to cover the whole of Africa, namely the ECOWAS in West Africa, the ECCAS in Central Africa, the PTA in East and Southern Africa and the forthcoming PTA in North Africa. The various subregional programmes in the major production sectors emphasize the following points: (i) reinforcement of agricultural and food production so as to increase employment and raise income in the rural areas; (ii) increase agricultural diversification and specialization so that intra-subregional exchange of food

products and cash crop products can take place not only to feed the needed population but also the infant agro-industries in the respective countries; (iii) the development of basic needs industries and core industries with a view to relating them to the need of greater intra-subregional trade.

115. The secretariat asserted that in the field of transport and communications, the subregional programmes emphasize the following: (i) the rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing intra-subregional transport facilities and creation of the new ones so as to provide an adequate interstate transport, telecommunications and civil aviation services; (ii) the promotion of subregional co-ordination and co-operation on maintenance of infrastructure and equipment; (iii) the harmonisation of standards and specifications; and (iv) the harmonization of rules, regulations and practices related to operations and maintenance of the infrastructure and facilities. However the implementation of these programmes is hindered by the lack of subregional financial resources, technical know-how and the external donors' preference to financing national rather than sub- regional projects.

116. The secretariat further indicated that subregional programmes of action in trade and customs generally recommend measures to be taken on a bilateral and multi-lateral basis, using a step-by-step flexible approach depending on the commodities involved. Trade co-operation basically evolves long-term trade agreements between member States based on a specified list of commodities. The annual targets for reduction and/or elimination of trade barriers are more flexible for the primary products than for the industrial products, presumably because each country wants to protect its own infant industries. But despite all efforts to promote intra-African trade through such means as trade fairs, seminars, exchange of trade mission, insurance and forwarding, export and import credit facilities, the magnitude of intra-African trade is very small in all the subregion presumably due to lack of complementarity of sub-regional production, but, above all, the lack of a comprehensive subregional sectoral programming. Thus there is need to undertake trade promotion studies by the highly qualified experts recruited from within the subregions as a co-operative programme in manpower development and utilization.

117. He finally recommended that the existing major subregional schemes be transformed into development-market poles around which production and trade could be co-ordinated and consolidated. These poles could play the role of leader in the process of integration in charge of co-ordinating with flexibility not only the policies and programmes of the participating countries, but also those of the other

intergovernmental organizations in the subregion in order to avoid duplication, unnecessary competition among them, and above all, dissipation of the meager resources of the subregion. The programming of subregional investments in agriculture, manufacturing industry, mining, energy, transport and communications, trade, manpower development and utilization was advocated. This programming will aim at divising different areas of specialization so that subregional products become complementary rather than competitive. In order to increase the intra-African trade, the adoption of a three- tier tariff system was proposed according to which a higher tariff could be applied to the rest of the world, an intermediate tariff between the subregions, and a low tariff from within each subregion.

118. In the discussions that followed, the participants of the Planning Committee congratulated the secretariat for providing useful information on the issues and co-operative subregional programmes in the fields of transport and communications, and trade and customs. Such information would be useful in the design and the implementation of the national projects having a subregional dimension.

119. Several delegates made pertinent comments on the main report and its various annexes. It was stressed that the annexes of the report would not be included in the conference document unless they are corrected.

120. Other delegates dealt in length with the issues of the statistical data of the major socioeconomic indicators that were provided in the document at the country and at the subregional level. Concerns were that some of the data given in the Table 1 of the main report do not correspond to the country's own estimates. There are slight differences in statistics estimated by ECA and the ones that are actually used in the planning offices of the various countries. One delegate particularly pointed that the share of transport and communication in GDP was underestimated for his country. The share of tertiary sector in GDP was much higher than that the one given in Table 1.

121. Other delegates concentrated on the fact that the population figures underestimated the country's reality and wanted to know the sources of the population and other data provided in the document. The delegate of Morocco in particular stated that the figures given in page 18 table 1 relating to his country's area and population should be replaced by the following: area: 710 850 km², population: 22.7 million and density: 31.9 inhabitants per km²; otherwise, he expresses his reservation on ECA estimates. Other delegates also proposed to replace their country figures by their owns. Gabon suggested the population figures to be 1.325 million inhabitants instead of

1.17 million and per capita income slightly higher: US$2,800 instead of US$2,721.3. Congo's population is now put to 2.02 million inhabitants instead of 1.79 million. Burkina Faso's population is now estimated 7.919 million inhabitants in 1985, but the exact 1986 figures will be sent to ECA later.

122. One delegate asserted that the report on the ECCAS did not take into account the wish of the member States to elaborate a subregional transport and communication plan and the request made to UNDP to provide financial assistance for feasibility study of such plan. Another delegate remarked that the ECCAS report gives the impression that the transgabonais railways with a large gauge of 1.435 m. hinders the linkage of subregional railways net works particularly with Congo-Ocean Railways with a gauge of 1.067 m. Despite the gauge difference, the linkage can still be made.

123. With regards to the issues of the smallnes of the intra-African trade, some delegates pointed out that, as far as ECOWAS is concerned, one should not only deal with the recorded trade, but also with the unrecorded trade which constitutes a significant part of trade in West Africa. On this issue, one delegate pinpointed the fact that the reduction and/or elimination of tariff and non-tariff barriers do not necessarily lead to increased intra-African trade. This must be coupled by the ongoing structural adjustment programmes which tend to reduce public expenditure and promote exports and the recommendations of the study should be supported along with the structural adjustment policies.

124. In response to the various comments of the participants, the secretariat thanked them for providing useful and pertinent suggestions for the improvement of the document. He indicated that the main report is a summary of the annexed reports which were written in detail on the basis of the information gathered at each subregional institution and, therefore, these are part and parcel of the official report. However some controversial information, particularly in the North Africa's PTA report, was corrected. He also indicated that the data provided in Table 1 of the main report are the ECA and United Nations estimates which may sometimes differ from country's estimates depending on method of estimates and that it is difficult to have data on unrecorded intra-African trade. But he welcomed delegates to provide ECA with their country data which could be taken into account when making new estimates. He also replied that in the ECCAS report, mention was made about the design of the subregional transport plan in the section dealing with road transport.

Critical assessment of current practices with respect to national development planning (agenda item 10)

125. In his introduction to document E/ECA/PSD.5/8, a representative of the secretariat recalled that the purpose of the study was to consider, within the framework of following up the implementation of General Assembly resolution 35/64 on the Lagos Plan of Action and resolution A.40/40 on the critical economic situation in Africa the extent to which current planning practices in Africa reflected the strategies adopted in Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery and the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

126. The obstacles to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the early 1980s included the structures inherited from the colonial period, the collapse of commodity prices, the stagnation or even decline in real terms of official development assistance, higher interest rates, exchange rate fluctuations in the currencies of major industrialized countries, and the shortage and inadequacy of skilled manpower. In addition to such obstacles, the dependence of African economies on foreign resources was noted; this had led to the management of national resources that sometimes neglects priority sectors such as agriculture, industry and manpower and caused considerable spending on consumer goods imports and the implementation of nonproductive investment projects. Obstacles to the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action also included the structural problems such as the lack of inter-sectoral and intra- regional complementarity particularly co-operation in key areas such as food security, agricultural research and ecological programmes and projects. The highly centralized systems of planning and the predominance of macro-economic objectives which were not always compatible with sectoral activities had also hampered the implementation of the LPA.

127. It was because of such obstacles that the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity adopted in July 1985 Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990 and the General Assembly adopted in July 1986 the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. As a programme of action, APPER translates the general principles of the LPA into specific and operational activities which would be undertaken during the period 1986-1990. The Programme gave top priority to the recovery and development of the agricultural sector while giving special attention to agricultural support sectors namely, industry, transport, health, education and other social services. UN-PAAERD had the same priorities and objectives as APPER. Under the United Nations Programme of Action, the commitments of the

international community concerning the improvement in the quality and terms of external assistance and co-operation, support for the reforms envisaged by Africa, economic recovery and the debt issue and improvement of the international environment were important if not crucial conditions for attaining the objectives of APPER.

128. The general aims of national plans currently being implemented in African were: (a) to bring about and sustain economic recovery; (b) to achieve self-sufficiency particularly in food; (c) to achieve greater control over development and economic growth. The new strategies included a policy of supporting agricultural modernization in terms of: organization, extension, training and mobilization of the rural areas, credit, pricing and the distribution of inputs and basic consumer items; food production which had been neglected in the past and was now been promoted in many countries. The strategies also had a more selective, integrated and diversified industrial policy based on upgrading agricultural produce, strengthening and promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises, increasing productivity, improving the quality of products and making rational choices with respect to improvements.

129. The transport policies adopted were based on activities defined in line with the objectives of agricultural and industrial development programmes. The development of transport was also considered as a means of consolidating the policy of regional balance and physical planning.

130. The development of human resources was based on the adoption of systems of education and training that were a better reflection of national realities and economic needs.

131. The plans considered also stressed a sound and strict management of public finances, the mobilization and optimal allocation of domestic resources. There were also plans in many countries to strengthen and diversify banking systems. With respect to the allocation of financial resources, the food and agriculture sector had been given top priority in line with the recommendation of APPER and UN-PAAERD. In more than half of the countries, between 20 and 49 per cent of investments had been earmarked for agriculture or agricultural support sectors. On the average, 13.0 per cent of proposed investments went to manpower development. The deficit in the operating budgets were held down to 4.0 to 5.0 per cent of GDP even in the low-income countries. Along with the streamlining of public enterprises, measures had been taken to promote the private sector.

132. The LPA, APPER and UN-PAAERD, paid particular attention to the control of economic management and the development of self-

reliance. National plans were characterized by: the broadening of their areas and strengthening of their mechanisms at the same time as the procedure for their preparation and implementation was made flexible and taking into account physical planning which was increasingly becoming one of the fundamental tasks of planning and gaining importance because of the many disparities in growth, standards of living and jobs within African countries.

133. He concluded by saying that on the whole, the objectives and strategies adopted in the national plans considered with in line with APPER and UN-PAAERD. The national plans tended towards increasing decentralization of existing planning systems. In many cases, the State disengagement is made progressively and carefully, the State intervene only to orient the private initiative and to replace it where it does not exist, planning was increasingly spreading to embrace all economic activities in the public, private, modern and informal sectors. Some countries had already started looking into ways and means to harnessing the initiatives of the people. The share of domestic resources in financing planned activities was growing considerably in many countries despite all sorts of difficulties facing those countries. The secretariat further made the following recommendations: (i) short-term forecasting systems should be improved through the modelling and strengthening of their coherence with medium-term forecasts; (b) the basic statistical tools should be improved in order to achieve progress in the development of regional planning and physical planning;

(iii) the training of manpower should be improved particularly in the analysis, assessment and management of projects, programming and general planning.

134. In the ensuring discussions, many representatives congratulated the secretariat for the excellent quality of the document. It was recognized on the whole that national development plans did not sufficiently take into account the effects of structural adjustment programmes and their long-term impact because planners were not involved enough in the design and implementation of such programmes and, the financial authorities which were absorbed by such programmes often neglected planning problems. On that point, several representatives noted current precedence of adjustment programmes over of adjustment programmes over development plans. Some representatives also wondered how national development plans and structural adjustment programmes which focussed on short-term problems could be reconciled. They felt that the analysis analysis of national development plans should have been expanded to cover ongoing adjustment programmes so as to highlight their coherence. With respect to the harmonization

of national plans and adjustment programmes, another representative mentioned the experience of his country in preparing annual investment programmes that made it possible to periodically adjust the objectives of the investment plan and said that it was one method of reconciling development plans and adjustment programmes mentioned in the secretariat's study. It was suggested that in the conclusions of the study, account should be taken of the recommendations of the Khartoum Conference on the human dimension although he shared the conclusions of the study. Discussions were made on the decentralization of planning and problems of co-ordination between the central and local governments. In that regard, a delegate talked about the experience of his country in defining national guidelines and then programming available local resources in conformity with such guidelines. At the national level, a hard core of projects had been selected which represented a minimal programme which was considered annually and to which new projects could be added when fresh resources became available. It was also recognized that the decentralization of planning also involved very considerable difficulties in a number of countries. Another representative said that he was prepared to make available his country's experience in that area to the other representatives, the aim being how to involve the masses in the process of implementing plans. One representative drew the attention of participants to the growing importance of micro projects in his country's plans since the problem of financing was essential. In the ongoing national plan in his country 40 per cent of the sectoral projects fell into that category.

135. It was pointed out that methodological problems existed in the elaboration of African national plans. Besides, according to some delegates, the document should have compared pre-1980 national plans which generally spanned a period of five years and laid more emphasis on the public sector rather than current plans which tended to give greater latitude to the private sector because of the difficulties of centralized planning. The current vision in national plans were based on the expendiency of structural adjustment but such vision was also subject to change. Another point made concerned the socio-political dimension of development plans. The understanding was that planning would be largely updated if it did not evolve and failed to take into account the costs and benefits of structural adjustment programmes. It was recommended that ECA should undertake a more comprehensive study on various African experiences in planning and study and analyse the appropriate systems for the African countries. One other proposal from the floor had to do with the holding of one seminar on project management analysis and another on housing. Poor project selection was one of the causes of the debt problem and the

current housing crisis in the urban areas especially. These were some of the justifications given for the proposal.

136. The director of IDEP pointed out that the heavy handed administration of the economies and distortions in price systems as allocative and incentive mechanisms have contributed to presently observed macro-imbalances which are at the heart of structural adjustment reforms. It was stressed that in certain cases, it was non-Africans who elaborated the development plans. Some participants requested clarification on the concept of self- sufficiency, the growth rates recorded in national plans, figures on irrigated land, arable land in North Africa and the criteria which had been used in selecting those national plans considered in the study.

137. In his reply, the secretariat thanked the participants for their interventions, comments and proposals which went to enrich the document and indicated the main dimensions of the problem of planning. He elucidated some of the issues raised and stressed that while structural adjustment programmes existed and were going in number, they should in no way challenge the usefulness of national development plans. It was to be deplored that such adjustment programmes were designed and formulated outside of the national planning agencies who should have been accorded all the primacy in the adjustment process. He stressed the lack of resources and the conditions for the financing of adjustment measures. That dictated the orientation of the programmes which were being formulated and adopted without the participation of the planning agencies. Those agencies needed to be strengthened in terms of staffing and equipment if they were to be able to integrate adjustment programmes in national planning.

138. Decentralized planning called for greater management autonomy and freedom of decision-making for public enterprises. It also meant that human and material resources should be mobilized rationally. The growth rates mentioned in current national plans reflected the need for recovery and were in any case lower than the targets set in the Lagos Plan of Action. While they may be optimistic, the targets were fully justified. He went on to state that the study had focussed on those national plans that ECA had at its disposal. Because of the financial difficulties of the commission, no mission had been undertaken to the member countries for the purpose of preparing the study. This was why the number of national plans considered was restricted and the gaps on which the recommendations focussed would make it possible in future to extend the scope of the study and to fill in what was missing.

Report of the workshop on Multi-sectoral Planning
(agenda item 11)

139. In presenting document E/ECA/PSD.5/9 the secretariat reporting on the workshop on multi-sectoral planning models and short-term economic forecasting for policy design in development planning and management in Africa mentioned that the workshop was held in Moscow from 15 to 28 September 1986. The workshop was convened in response to the recommendations of the 2nd and 3rd session of the Joint Conference. The workshop examined four basic areas in multi-sectoral planning models, namely the integration of the informal sector in the overall economic development process, the need to update the input-output technical coefficients and its dynamization in the process of long-term growth, the treatment of prices and balance of payments variables in short-term forecasting models based on social accounting matrix and elaborate modelling of the energy sector for improved energy balance in Africa. The workshop was financed by the UN regular programme of technical co-operation - the Round Component. The host country is USSR and ECA is the executing agency. Both the Central Economic and Mathematical Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the ECA provided the basic working documents as well as the organizational aspects and the servicing of the workshop. 15 African countries experts out of 20 initially invited attended the workshop and presented short papers on her/their country experiences. Four United Nations Specialized agencies and bodies of the UN system presented their work on global modelling on world economic outlook and perspective studies with the view of promoting exchange of experience such as UNCTAD experience on prices and balance of payment variables, UNDP's experience in input-output techniques in development planning, ILO experience in modelling of the informal sector and DIESA experience in global perspective studies.

140. Besides the participants of the workshop were informed of the subject of regional planning at the Republic level at the State Economic Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Lativian Republic in Riga on agriculture modelling and an integrated input- output regional planning model at the Scientific Research Institute of Latvian Republic State Planning Committee. Moreover, a demonstration of modelling work on computers was also made.

141. Finally he told the meeting that the Workshop adopted various recommendations on the various areas of sectoral planning and he invited the meeting to examine the report of the workshop and in particular the recommendations made and decide on their priorities so as to enable the secretariat to design its future work programme in this area of multi-sectoral planning models.

142. After the meeting examined the report and the recommendations of the workshop, he recommended that:

(a) In view of the important role of the informal sector in employment creation, income earning opportunities and satisfaction of basic needs, and the need to understand and put the sector in its proper perspectives in economic development planning, the Committee recommended that ECA organizes a round table of African Planners on the integration of informal sector on multi-sectoral development planning.

(b) Similarly the meeting recommended that ECA should organize a seminar on regional planning given the enhancement and efficiency it would give to the construction of medium- and long-term national plans through the involvement of grass-root participation.

143. The meeting also calls upon ECA and donor countries and institutions to mobilize the necessary resources for the timely convening of the two seminars. It also prepared a resolution in respect of these items for adoption by the Conference of Ministers.

Africa and global modelling systems (agenda item 12)

144. The secretariat introduced the paper entitled "Africa and the Global Modelling Systems: Some Issues (E/ECA/PSD.5/10). The aim of the paper was twofold namely (a) to draw the attention of the African Planners to the ongoing efforts at global modelling; (b) to reflect and make recommendations on the ways that would enable Africa to derive maximum benefits from the different models. The paper reviewed a number of global models in the UN system and at academic institutions in the developed countries.

145. With regard to the treatment of the African countries and the region as a whole, the secretariat noted that there was a tendency to marginalise the African region. This was reflected at three levels: the coverage, the specification of the African models and the policy analysis. In terms of coverage, there was a general tendency in most global models to treat only a limited number of countries and to lump many of the countries into group models to have more homogeneous subgroupings of the African countries perhaps along the lines of the subregions such as SADCC, CILSS, ECCAS, etc.

146. In terms of the specification of the African models that are included in the global framework, there was also a tendency for many of the models to fail to capture the structural peculiarities of the African economies. This was due, inter alia, to problems of data and the relatively low level of development

of modelling in Africa. As regards policy analysis, there was need for the global models to take more account of the policy issues that were of particular importance to Africa.

147. The secretariat drew the attention of the Planning Committee to the various recommendations that could enable Africa to more effectively benefit from the ongoing global modelling efforts. At the national level, there was need for the strengthening of capabilities in model building and maintenance. Also, at the subregional level, there was need for undertaking subregional modelling activities as well as increased contacts with the internatinal agencies involved in global modelling work. At the international level, efforts had to be made to more adequately treat the African region in the global models and to attain a wider dissemination of the policy analyses of such models in the African countries.

148. A representative of the Centre for Econometric and Applied Research, University of Ibadan also made a representation on global modelling. He emphasized the fact that the region is grossly under represented in global modelling programmes on which analyses of international economics are now often based. Rectifying this situation would call for increased modelling activity at individual country level. This in turn would contribute to solving another set of problems which are equally important or perhaps more important - that of providing more effective tools for the management of individual economies.

149. In most of the planning agencies within the region, planners are familiar with and utilise aggregative macro-models, programming models or accounting models often employed in plan formulation. This not withstanding there appears to be still widespread apathy towards adopting formal modelling on a continuous basis in most of our planning agencies. A legitimate question would be, why do we need models in these seemingly simple economies in which policy makers are still saddled with basic needs problems of dealing with hunger, shelter and vagaries of weather conditions? We try in our paper to provide justifications for adopting formal models on a continuous basis.

150. In the discussion that followed, the delegates pointed out that African countries need to strengthen their modelling capabilities. This, however, was seriously constrained by the problem of data availability. Nevertheless given the economic interdependence of the different regions, Africa should not be marginalised in global models. Efforts had to be made for Africa to be fully incorporated in such models.

151. Concern was expressed as regards the way structural adjustment programmes were affecting the planning in general. It

was necessary for governments to give more attention to long-term planning and modelling. Further, the planning and modelling had to take into account the African economic realities and should as a consequence incorporate all economic activities such as those in the informal sector. A delegate briefed the meeting on how modelling in his country had enabled the identification of important data gaps. The exercise had, also given useful results that would not have been known without the use of a model. Many delegates recommended that the proposals of the paper should be adopted.

Institute for Economic Development and Planning (agenda item 13)

152. The Director of IDEP presented this item. He first referred to the developments relating to the institute's new orientation and strategy and specifically mentioned the new thrust and shift in emphasis towards research and advisory services.

153. The Director then referred to the two missions commissioned by the UNDP and in particular the evaluation mission made up of UNDP, African Governments and the ECA to assess IDEP's performance and its potential role and contribution to the development of African economies as well as finding ways and means of improving the cost effectiveness of the project. The mission in the light of UNDP decision recommended to phase out UNDP support of core teaching and management staff, recommended measures to secure regular and timely payments of governments assessed contributions and to incorporate IDEP's core staff in the UN regular budget, and the restructuring of the Institute in the field of research and consultancy and advisory services to make it more self-financing in the future. The report of the meeting was endorsed by the Government Council of the Institute. On the basis of this report, UNDP gave indications of its commitment for providing support to the Institute to build up the new capacity during the 1987-1991 UNDP cycle.

154. The Director then gave reference to the Medium-Term Plan (1987-1991). He mentioned that the plan embodies the Institute's new orientation and strategy aiming at: (a) achievement of balance between all programmes and activities, namely research advisory services and training; (b) capacity building in and income generation from research and consultancy services for self-sustained growth and development of the Institute. The plan was considered by a subcommittee from the members of the Governing Council and was later adopted by the Governing Council of the Institute in its 30th meeting.

155. Turning to IDEP's activities during 1986-1987, he mentioned that the Institute's training activities concentrated more on consolidation than expansion. Still the Institute continues to

provide the nine- month basic programmes, three short-term specialization programmes and the six-month research training programme. In the field of conferences, seminars and workshops, the Institute organized two major international conferences on "growth and structural adjustment in Africa", and "River Basin Development and Economic Co-operation in West Africa". The Institute also co-organized a workshop with the Arab Planning Institute as well as actively participated in one international conference on Africa and a workshop organized as part of the project on "trade and development in Sub- Saharan Africa". He then alluded to the support service activities. Mention was also made to IDEP co-operation programmes with other institutions.

156. As for the programme of 1988-1989, it includes, aside from training two seminars with requisite research on: "Deregulation, privatisation and structural adjustment in Africa", and "Structural adjustment and growth, African regional growth poles".

157. The Director concluded by announcing the vacant positions to be filled in IDEP's Governing Council:

North Africa (2 vacancies)
West Africa (3 vacancies)
Central Africa (2 vacancies)
Eastern and southern Africa (1 vacancy)

After consultations, it was decided that the vacant posts to Governing Council of IDEP will be filled as followed:

North Africa

1. Abdel Abdelhamid Elmitwally Shalaby - Egypt - elected
2. Ait El Mahjoub Lhoucine - Morocco -reelected

West Africa

1. A.A. Olupmide - Nigeria - reelected
2. Ibrahima Sory Sano - Guinea - elected
3. Ms. Viviane Y. Compaore - Burkina Faso elected

Central Africa

1. Busekure Kazimbaya - Rwanda - elected
2. Cameroon (name will be communicated later)

Eastern and Southern Africa

1. Y. Otieno - Kenya - re-elected

158. In the discussion that followed the participants noted with satisfaction the efforts the Institute is making in spite of the financial difficulties. It was particularly mentioned that African governments do need the Institute as evidenced by the rising demand for the services of the Institute and by the growing number of trainees over the years. The participants commended the new orientation of IDEP embodied in the Medium-term Plan of the Institute which will allow the Institute to increase its debt financing capacity. For the Institute to continue its training programmes and start its expanded research and new advisory and consultancy services, participants underscored the importance of calling upon member States to pay their assessed contributions, and for UNDP, ADB and other donors to continue to provide assistance to IDEP in line with the requirements of the Medium-term Plan. A motion of thanks to the Senegalese Government for its continued support for IDEP was adopted.

159. The meeting also noted the importance and the need for close co-operation between ECA sponsored institutions and in particular between IDEP and ACCARTSOD. In response to this issue the Director referred to the commission established to regularize and rationalize the activities of these institutions.

Report of ECA planning activities (1986-1987) and examinations of work programme (1988-1989) with consideration of the objectives, problems to be addressed and strategy for the period 1990-1995: (agenda item 14)

160. The secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.5/12. He noted that the work programme focussed on the systematic implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action, the Final Act of Lagos and the agreed regional development strategies in particular Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, the United Nations Programme of Action for Africa's Economic Recovery and Development as well as the Third United Nations Development Decade of the International Development Strategy.

161. During 1986-1987 biennium, ECA undertook various activities including the preparation on a regular basis of the Survey of Economic and Social Conditions in Africa for 1984/1985 and 1985/1986 as well as an annual economic report for 1986 and 1987 prepared jointly with the African Development Bank. In the field of technical assistance and advisory services, ECA provided such services to 19 African countries, institutions and intergovernmental organizations. The technical assistance was provided to assist in the preparation of development programmes, recovery plans, investment programmes, contingency planning and support to LDCs country roundtables meetings.

162. The other activities were carried out in the framework of strengthening planning apparatus in terms of technique and methodologies and upgrading the planning capabilities at the country level. These activities cover implementation of short-term forecasting system, modelling of key developmental sector of the African economies, monitoring and evaluation of the current planning practices in Africa in the light of the objectives of the agreed regional development strategies, undertaking of development perspective studies with the view of mapping the future path of the African economies under different growth scenarios and undertaking of studies on subregional sectoral planning on the existing arrangements as well as the potentialities for future co-operation in the field of transport and trade. Activities carried out in favour of African LDCs include reviews of socioeconomic conditions of individual LDCs, in-depth studies on the implications of structural adjustment and stablization programmes, and food strategies, as well as monitoring the implementation of the substantial New Programme of action.

163. The main features of the work programmes in development issues and policies for 1988-1990 as approved focuses on provision of technical assistance, preparation of annual surveys, studies on structural adjustment and stabilization programmes, perspective studies at some selected African countries, forecasting and outlook, sectoral planning models, monitoring of development plans, studies on the African Economic community and the African common market, links between fiscal and monetary policies, mobilization of personal savings and in-depth studies on the economies of LDCs.

164. In the medium-term plan 1990-1995, and given the changing needs of the African economies, emphasis would be given to the development of the analytical capability to assess the socioeconomic situation, developing the required tools for crisis management, preparation and implementation of national development and regional plans, evaluation of structural adjustment programmes, development perspectives, forecasting and outlook and sectoral planning, mobilization of resources and money markets, and in-depth studies on the economies of LDCs.

165. He then, called upon the meeting to examine the broad elements of the work programme and decide on the priorities with the view of enabling the secretariat to prepare a work programme for the 1990- 1991 biennium for submission to the 15th meeting of the ECA Conference of Ministers.

166. In the discussion that followed, it was indicated that it was necessary for the secretariat to elaborate a framework of optional resource allocations so as to ensure a sectoral distribution of investment within the framework of development planning. It was also indicated that the report does not give precise and detailed information on the economic aspects of the work activities to enable the meeting to draw any meaningful work programme for the coming two years. Finally, it was agreed that any suggestion and proposals as to the future work programme of the Commission in the area of development issues and policies should be given to the secretariat in writing to help them in drawing the work programme for 1990-1991. Also the Chairperson speaking on behalf of the participants underlined the importance of providing enough time to consider the work programme, which was an important agenda and requested that this should be taken into account when considering the agenda for the next session of the Joint Conference.

167. The Planning Committee adopted three resolutions relating to:

(i) IDEP

(ii) Multi-sectoral Planning

(iii) Africa and global modelling.

STATISTICS COMMITTEE

Election of officers (agenda item 16)

168. The Committee elected Mr. E.O. Ambah (Nigeria) as chairperson, Mr. A. Mokaddem (Algeria) as first vice-chairperson, Mr. Ndjadi Manya (Zaire) as second vice-chairperson and Mr. C.P.B. Mkai (Tanzania) as rapporteur.

Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows: statistical deficiencies and recommendations (agenda item 17):

169. The background documents for this discussion were "Data collection related to development programmes and aid flows, statistical deficiencies and recommendations" (E/ECA/PSD.5/13), "Improving information flows on the follow-up process to African economic recovery and development" (E/ECA/PSD.5/14) and "Indicators for monitoring development programmes and aid flows in Africa" (E/ECA/PSD.5/15). In introducing the agenda item, the secretariat indicated that, as part of the follow-up process

to African economic recovery and development, it had been identified that one of the major areas of concern is lack of relevant data for monitoring development programmes in general. The document submitted for consideration by the participants, therefore, focussed on statistical organization (location and powers of national statistical services; management of the statistical office; centralized versus decentralized statistical systems; development, planning and utilization of human resources; data processing, analysis, publication and dissemination, and work programme budget), data requirements (data availability, energy and environmental data: requirements and availability and statistical priorities), and strategies for data collection. A number of recommendations regarding the above topics had been formulated to be reviewed by the participants.

170. The secretariat identified the problems still being faced in data processing. He mentioned in particular the intolerable time-lag experienced between the end of data collection and the end of data processing. Regarding data requirements for planning, he stressed the need for increasing efforts in compiling energy and environmental data. Finally, he indicated that the recommendations in document E/ECA/PSD.5/13, had been divided into two parts: those to be implemented by African Governments and those which would have to be implemented by national statistical services (NSS).

171. In the discussions which followed, a number of participants commented on the issue of the location of national statistical services (NSS). Questions were raised as to the desirability of placing the NSSs under the authority of the Ministry responsible for planning. It was claimed that in a number of countries such arrangements inhibited the statistical office from providing data needed by a wide range of users. In response to this, the the secretariat explained that the statement in the report referred to responses received in the latest ECA survey on statistical organization and staffing in Africa and did not represent the view of the secretariat.

172. The issue of decentralized statistical systems was also raised. In the case of one country, it was reported that in an effort by sectoral ministries to set up data banks, there had been unnecessary duplication of data collection activities. It appeared that sectoral ministries were in a better position to obtain funds for such activities than national statistical offices. They therefore tended to ignore the co-ordinating role of national statistical services which would, however, be particularly useful in the development of such activities.

173. Regarding training, a number of delegates expressed the need to devote more attention to this topic than had been done in the section on development, planning and utilization of human resources in the document presented.

174. Most of the delegates endorsed the secretariat's view that serious problems were being encountered by the NSS in the field of data processing. Where national statistical services had acquired mini- and micro-computers, it had been possible to reduce the time lag between the end of data collection and the end of data processing. Doubts were raised regarding the suggestion by the secretariat that there should not be a strict separation between the functions of statisticians and data processing staff, and that subject-specialists and statisticians should acquire expertise in the use of micro computers. These pertained in particular to the future of data processing specialists if statisticians themselves were able to process their own data. The secretariat explained that the need for statisticians to acquire expertise in data processing was based on the fact that they had to interact with data processors. In addition, they should also be capable of entering, editing, tabulating and analysing the data on a small-scale. Data processing specialists would, of course, still be needed for the processing of large-scale surveys and censuses.

175. With respect to data requirements, concern was expressed that in document E/ECA/PSD.5/15 a range of indicators in the field of labour statistics such as unemployment rates and income distribution had not received adequate attention in the set of indicators proposed. It was also stated that the chart at the end of the document E/ECA/PSD.5/13 on the fields of statistics and their interrelationships did not adequately describe the role of labour statistics. Labour statistics belonged not only to economic statistics but also to social statistics and, in some contexts, it was more relevant in the latter area. The secretariat agreed with these views and indicated that this will be taken into account in the review of the diagram.

176. With respect to the strategy of data collection, some concern was expressed that survey programmes under the African Household Survey Capability Programme had suffered as a result of lack of funding. It had been hoped that ECA and the UN Statistical Office could assist in securing funding for such projects. The Director of the UN Statistical Office explained the problems connected with mobilizing resources for countries participating in the NHSCP. Concern was expressed about the relationship between the new World Bank survey project on the Social Dimension of Adjustment (SDA) and NHSCP, in particular the need to make the fullest possible use of the AHSCP in

implementing the Bank project. It was also recommended that since the SDA programme had just started, the Joint Conference may wish at its next session in 1990 to have an item on its agenda for discussion.

177. A number of participants raised questions about the large number of questionnaires sent by the UN system for completion. The Director of the UN Statistical Office explained the collaboration between UN agencies to reduce the reporting burden on countries. He explained that countries were also given the opportunity to review periodically the list of questionnaires, and that in several fields the questionnnaires used varied according to the level of statistical development of the country.

178. With reference to environmental statistics, the meeting requested the assistance of ECA to enable national statistical services to compile and disseminate information in this areas. Both ECA and the UN Statistical Office indicated their interest in assisting member States to develop environmental statistics.

179. The participants endorsed the recommendation by the secretariat that as part of the follow-up to the revised version of document E/ECA/PSD.5/13 there should be a country-by-country assessment of the state of national statistical services. This assessment should be a collaborative effort of the directors of national statistical services and ECA and should address such issues as terms of reference of statistical services, structure, staffing, timeliness of publications, statistical deficiencies and material and technical assistance required.

180. It was also stressed that not enough attention had been paid to data related to food security. The secretariat explained that a separate paper on "food security information systems" (E/ECA/PSD.5/21) had been prepared for the meeting as an information document. Due to the large number of items on the agenda, no detailed discussion could however take place on this important topic.

181. The observer from Statistics Sweden outlined the contribution made by his institution to data collection efforts in Africa. Long-term advisers and short-term experts had been sent to various countries including Lesotho, Somalia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Concentrated efforts were made on improving institutional links between Statistics Sweden and statistical offices of developing countries.

182. The representative of the African Statistical Association (AFSA) expressed AFSA's appreciation for ECA's administrative and other support since the inception of his organization. The Nigerian Government had now agreed to host the Association but he hoped ECA's support would still be available to support AFSA.

183. The observer representing the International Statistical Institute (ISI) indicated ISI's interest in statistical development in Africa. He announced ISI's plans to organize, with the financial assistance of UNFPA, a workshop on Demographic Statistics in the near future. ISI was also interested in the Environmental Statistics Programme in Africa which the secretariat was in the process of developing and hoped it would be permitted to play a role in its implementation.

184. Finally, the Committee endorsed the recommendations in document E/ECA/PSD.5/13 with a suggestion by some delegates that paragraph 80 should come before paragraph 78.

Evaluation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa (Agenda item 18)

185. In introducing document E/ECA/PSD.5/16, entitled "Evaluation of the Statistical Training Programme for Africa, 1978-1987", the secretariat listed the achievements of STPA since it was set up in 1978. He drew particular attention to the planned drawing up of guide syllabuses to act as guides for the centres participating in the programme and for other African institutions running statistical training courses, and to the strengthening of STPA centres by granting scholarships for the training of trainers, by using visiting teachers to give courses in specialized areas, and by giving teaching equipment etc. He also described the development of research activities in the STPA centres and the dissemination of information on statistical training activities.

186. The secretariat also informed the meeting that the matter of special help for African countries whose official language is Portuguese was receiving much attention. Indeed a high-level statistical training centre for countries in that group was being set up within the proposed National School for Applied Statistics in Lisbon, Portugal, and should be opened in January 1989. Furthermore a national centre to serve the subregion was to be set up in Bissau for the training of middle-level statisticians from Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe. This centre was due to begin a course to train technical officers in October 1988 for candidates from Guinea-Bissau and an assistant technicians course at the beginning of the academic year 1988/1989, with students from Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe participating in both levels.

187. The secretariat then stated that STPA had shown considerable progress, but that the fixed objectives had not yet been achieved, particularly from a quantitative standpoint.

Indeed, estimated needs had only been partially satisfied, particularly in terms of high-level statisticians in anglophone African countries and middle-grade personnel in francophone African countries. In conclusion, he briefly presented the work programme of STPA for the period 1987-1991, proposed by the Fifth Meeting of Directors of the Centres participating in the programme, held in Addis Ababa in October 1987.

188. The participants expressed their satisfaction with the considerable progress achieved by the STPA to-date and they hoped that development of the programme would continue. Some participants stated that model statistical training programmes drawn up under STPA should serve as references for the centres and not be used for the purposes of harmonizing the programmes. The the secretariat agreed with this point, whilst also underlining that some harmonization of training between the different centres was advisable. A suggestion was put forward that the teaching of data processing and operational research should be strengthened through special statistical training programmes in Africa. The necessity of bearing in mind the needs of users in the drawing up of the programme was also underlined.

189. Several participants stressed the need to promote national training structures for middle-level statisticians in the countries of the region, bearing in mind the acute need for this category of personnel. On this subject, the Director of CESD indicated that national training courses for middle-grade statisticians had been created in Burundi, and the Central African Republic with assistance from EDF as part of its country programme, rather than as part of the project "EEC assistance to STPA", as had been stated in the document under consideration. He also stated that it was up to the interested countries to express clearly their willingness to set up such national training courses in statistics and to approach the aid donors.

190. In reply to a question on the emphasis which had been laid on the training of trainers, since normally teachers should be University level professors, therefore fully qualified, the secretariat stated that certain STPA centres recruited assistants who did not have all the required qualifications. These people were sent for training in order to become fully qualified teachers.

191. Several participants underlined the importance of research in the STPA centres and hoped that the donors would furnish these centres with the funds necessary to allow them to carry out such work. The financial resources should be managed by the centres themselves.

192. Some participants stressed the problem of the lack of scholarships, which was often the reason why some countries did not participate in the programmes by sending students to the STPA centres. Other participants drew the attention of the meeting to the fact that the amount of national study grants was often inadequate, which led to difficulties for the students.

193. The representative of the International Statistical Programmes Centre (ISPC), Washington, pointed out that many African students continue specialized training and higher university studies outside Africa. In order to reduce the cost of such training, he proposed the joint organisation of special programmes by the STPA centres and by certain centres in the USA, such as the Bureau of Economic Analysis for national accounting, and the Bureau of Labour Statistics for labour statistics and price indices. The African centres could be responsible for the theoretical part of the instruction, while the American centres would undertake the practical aspects. The African centres could grant diplomas to students having successfully completed such training. The representative of ISPC further suggested that interested centres should contact the Education and Human Resources Division in the Africa Bureau of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in order to submit concrete proposals for financing.

194. The Director of the Ecole nationale supérieure de statistique et d'économie appliquée (ENSEA), Abidjan, informed the meeting that his centre would open a second year component of the course for ingénieurs statisticiens économistes in October 1988, and that the first intake would qualify in 1990. He also stated that the Teachers Council of his Centre was considering continuous training models, at the request of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire.

195. The Director of the Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (ISAE), Kampala, furnished additional information on the nine-month specialization courses organized by his institute and hoped to receive the comments of the users on the possibility of introducing specialized courses into the third year of the B.Stat. degree course.

196. The delegate of Rwanda told the meeting that the governing council of Institut africain et mauricien de statistique et d'économie appliquée (IAMSEA) had recommended the starting of a training course for "ingénieurs statisticiens économistes", with the result that this institute ought also to be added to the list of centres qualifying for help for this type of training in the future work programme of STPA.

197. The Director of the Munich centre described the new objectives of his centre, namely: an increase in the number of seminars held in Africa; the choice of multi-disciplinary subjects to be included in the four-month training courses; preparation of teaching material for the courses and seminars which could also be used by other institutions; activities involving discussions between the producers and users of data; the holding of more training and information programmes on micro-computers and software applications. He then told the meeting of the activities run by his centre forthcoming in 1988: (i) two four-month training courses on "the strengthening of statistical systems relating to food strategies and policies; (ii) a series of national level seminars for the users and producers of statistical data related to food questions; (iii) a seminar which will be organized in Sierra Leone on micro-computers and standard software applications in statistical services.

198. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Office underlined the importance of STPA in assisting countries of the region to satisfy training needs and he strongly urged the continuation of the programme. He pointed out that training was an important element in the country projects of DTCD and that these projects could, if the governments so wished, be used to fund study scholarships for training courses in the STPA centres. He also reminded the participants that the prime objective of the methodological documents prepared by the United Nations Statistical Office, such as the manuals and technical reports, was to help in the training of statisticians. He invited the STPA programme to make full use of these materials. Finally he told the meeting about recent initiatives on training in Portuguese-speaking countries, including efforts to organize an on-the-job training course at the Brazilian Bureau of Statistics for some statisticians and programmers from Portuguese-speaking African countries, as part of the regular budget of DTCD.

199. Concluding the debate on the agenda item, the meeting adopted the report of the Fifth Meeting of Directors of the Centres participating in STPA, as well as the future work programme of STPA, which is contained in annex I of the same report.

Report on statistical activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991) (agenda item 19)

200. In introducing the background document for this agenda item, en- titled "Review of ECA statistical activities (1986-1987) and future work programme" (E/ECA/PSD.5/18), a the

secretariat indicated that the discussion would be in three parts. The first part would be related to a review of the work performance of the ECA Statistics Division for the period 1986-1987. In the second part, the approved programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989 should be considered, while the third part would be devoted to the provisional work programme for the biennium 1990-1991.

201. The secretariat referred to the freeze in recruitment in the UN since 1986 and explained its effect on the implementation of the work programme of the Division. While the under-staffing had seriously affected regular budget activities, duties of extra-budgetary staff were carried out as planned during the period 1986-1987 with 181 missions to member States being completed.

202. Finally, the secretariat summarized the salient features of the project proposal in support of an African programme on environmental statistics and submitted it for approval by the Conference.

203. The discussion addressed a wide range of issues related to ECA's work programmes for the three biennia. Reference was made to the frequent staff turn-over in national statistical services and how this had negatively affected efforts and resources of ECA to build up national statistical capability. It was suggested that the secretariat should pay more attention to this problem by encouraging governments to provide incentives and working conditions to their statisticians.

204. Statistical seminars and workshops were regarded to be of great importance to member States. A suggestion was made to hold them at the subregional level to tackle particular problems before considering regional meetings.

205. Issues relating to documentation referred to the usefulness of computer print-outs issued by the secretariat and their dissemination within national statistical services. One delegate pointed out that these print-outs and other publications had been found very useful by planners and statisticians in his country, especially for the purposes of comparative analysis. The documents were made available in the library for general use. The representative of the secretariat indicated that this was unfortunately not common practice.

206. With respect to advisory services, the meeting noted with satisfaction the large number of missions carried out and stressed their usefulness. Enquiries were made whether such advisory services were also available in the fields of international trade, industrial statistics and prices. The

secretariat replied that any member State could make a request for an advisory mission related to any field of statistics. If ECA was unable to field an expert from its own staff, it would refer the matter to the UN Statistical Office or other appropriate UN agencies, which have experts for such assignments.

207. Delegations also queried if and to what extent ECA was actively involved in the World Bank project on the social dimension of structural adjustment. The secretariat indicated that informal discussions had been taking place with the World Bank and the UN Statistical Office on this issue. It would, however, be most effective if member States would directly invite ECA and the UN Statistical Office to participate with the World Bank in the different phases of the SDA project preparation and implementation.

208. The meeting further considered the proposal on environment statistics. It regarded work in this new field to be very useful to member States and endorsed the proposed activities to be implemented by ECA. The observer from the International Statistical Institute (ISI) indicated the interest of his organization in the African programme on environment statistics and stressed that there was expertise within the ISI to assist ECA in implementing the programme.

209. With reference to the outputs in the 1988-1989 work programme proposed for termination due to vacancies, the meeting asked for further clarification related to the selection and possible impacts of the deletions. The the secretariat explained that the list in para 58 of the background document was tentative and based on the projected minimum loss of 36 work months during the biennium. The suggested outputs had been listed to enable the secretariat to delete them should the corresponding resources not be forthcoming. The meeting accepted the suggested deletions.

210. With respect to the three work programmes under review, the meeting congratulated the secretariat on its implementation rate for 1986-1987 in view of the difficulties it had experienced in respect of resource allocation. With regard to the approved work programme 1988-1989, the meeting expressed the hope that efforts would be made to implement most of it. Finally, with respect to the work programme 1990-1991, the meeting requested that the technical assistance provided to member States in the 1988-1989 work programme for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development should be continued during the subsequent biennium.

211. The Director of the UN Statistical Office provided information on activities of his office in support of work being done in Africa. He reminded the Committee that the System of National Accounts (SNA) was under revision and that the Statistical Commission wished to have the revised draft SNA ready for adoption in 1991. Towards this end, a consultant had been engaged and series of expert group meetings were being held. Experts from African countries had been invited to individual meetings. His office would do its best to assist in securing funds for ECA to participate in the co- ordination meetings scheduled for 1989 and 1990. It will also assist in organizing the African regional meeting on the SNA revisions scheduled for 1989.

212. With respect to trade statistics, he referred to SITC/Rev.3, which was adopted in 1985 and urged all African member States to convert to the new SITC or to the Harmonized System beginning in 1988 to ensure the international comparability of the trade data they published. He indicated that on automated system for customs data, ASYCUDA, had been developed and member States might wish to avail themselves of this opportunity to process customs information more efficiently. He also referred to problems of trade data from individual countries. A number of African countries did not supply trade data on time. Some had not even provided any trade data for several years. He invited representatives of those countries falling into either catagory to discuss their problems with him or write to UNSO so that a suitable solution would be found. In addition, he appealed to member States to provide information on total value of imports and exports on a monthly or quarterly basis.

213. The Director of the UN Statistical Office then referred to activities in the field of International Economic Classifications. He indicated that the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) Rev.3 and the draft Central Product Classification (CPC) would be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission at its next meeting in 1989. Other activities of special note being carried out by his Office include work on improving statistics for special population groups such as women, disabled, youth, the elderly. This involved methodological work, technical co-operation and the development of user-oriented data bases, and collaboration with the UN Institute for Research and Social Development (UNRISD) in connection with work on patterns of consumption further to several resolutions of the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

214. Finally, he informed the Committee about a new initiative the Statistical Office was attempting to launch, in collaboration with UNCTAD, the UN Centre on Transnational

Corporations and others, in the field of statistics on services, particularly international trade in services. A proposal concerning an integrated set of activities involving methodological work, technical co-operation and data compilation has been prepared and is now being considered by several prospective donors.

215. The representative of the World Food Programme (WFP), in reviewing the print-outs of the Statistics Division on agricultural statistics, referred to the need for such statistics to include information on food imports, food aid and food self-sufficiency. He also stressed the need for the establishment of food security information systems in member States and commended the secretariat for taking the initiative in bringing before the meeting the information document on "Food Security Information Systems" (E/ECDA/PSD.5/21). The the secretariat replied by stressing that the ECA Statistics Division did not collect information on any aspect of agricultural statistics as this was the responsibility of FAO. ECA in its efforts to provide a comprehensive data base on Africa disseminates, however, computer print-outs based on FAO data to African countries.

DEMOGRAPHY COMMITTEE

Election of officers (agenda item 21)

216. The Committee elected Mr. Kabasele Ka Mutombo (Zaire) as Chairman, Mr. Daramola (Nigeria) as first Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ali Sherif (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) as second Vice-Chairman and Mr. Bundhoo (Mauritius) as Rapporteur.

Population dynamics .agenda item 22(a) and (b)|

217. The two items were introduced one after the other and were discussed together.

(a) Population dynamics in the context of socio-economic development planning (document E/ECA/PSD.5/25)

218. The paper focused on the interrelationships between population and socio-economic development. A representative of the secretariat outlined the demographic profile of Africa since 1950. He pointed out that Africa was characterized as having the highest mortality, fertility and population growth rates as well as having the lowest life expectancy at birth in relation to other regions of the world. Its population was young as reflected in the proportion of those under 15 years accounting for 45 per cent of the total population while the medium age was 17 years. Regarding international migration, the representative noted that there was a decline of migrant labour in general, especially from North African countries to Europe and from Southern African countries to South Africa due to restrictive measures taken in receiving countries and sometimes in sending countries to reduce international migrant labour.

219. The representative of the secretariat noted that African Governments, as reflected in the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population, had come to accept to consider population as a central focus for socio-economic development planning. He pointed out that the level of socio-economic development had an impact on fertility, mortality, and population growth rate. Similarly, he noted that population factors also had an impact on socio-economic development and resource utilization. He then drew the attention of the Committee to the imbalance between population growth rate and socio-economic development with specific references to meeting human needs relating to food, health, education, employment, use and protection of environment and resources. He emphasized that any efforts to tackle population and development problems had to adopt a strategy and policies to influence both socio-economic development and population factors. Finally, an appeal was made to the Committee to review recommendations in the paper with a view to see which recommendations should be emphasized. The summary recommendations were from various United Nations major resolutions and the KPA. The recommendations addressed issues to improve and increase food production, primary health care, family planning programmes, education, especially for women, acquisition of knowledge, skills, as well as technological innovations and know-how for the working-age population, introduction and/or expansion of development activities in both urban and rural areas, as well as policies to influence population factors.

220. In the discussions that followed, concern was expressed regarding the high drop-outs in the education system as it was affecting development. In the case of Ghana, the Government had expanded junior secondary schools to absorb those who complete primary school. One of the emphases in junior secondary schools was to provide vocational training as well so that the young people can later be in a position to support themselves. It was pointed out that the nature of the education provided had a bearing on development in African countries. To that effect, it was suggested that education should be oriented to help the individual to solve his problems.

221. Some participants felt that the paper had put much emphasis on the adverse effects of population growth on socio-economic development. It was pointed out, for example, that some agricultural policies rather than population growth were responsible for food problems. Emphasis was on good socio-economic development policies in the various sectors of agriculture, employment, education, etc. The secretariat pointed out that population as a central focus of socio-economic development and being an integral part of socio-economic development had a significant impact on development given the level of technological capability available. Moreover, the secretariat brought to the attention of the Committee that in the KPA, African countries had called for the need to bring about a balance between socio-economic development and population growth. This would call for intervention not only to socio-economic development but to population factors as well. This was what the paper had emphasized.

222. An observation was made that case studies should have been made on countries with reliable data to show the relationships between population and development in the selected sectors to come up with more concrete results. The secretariat explained that, given the limitation on the number of pages for papers for the Conference, this could not be done. Moreover, data limitations would be a constraint. The representative of the secretariat, in reacting to an observation on differences between some of the figures in the paper with those generated by member States or other institutions, pointed out that this was due to the fact that sources were different. This was very common especially in areas of estimates and projections where benchmark data or assumptions might be different.

223. Some of the points participants wanted emphasized in the paper in attempts to improve socio-economic conditions in Africa included informal education programmes including literacy programmes; increase in budget allocation for health programmes; continued improvements in data collection and analysis to help generate more reliable population indicators.

224. The Committee gave support to the recommendations in the paper. The need was expressed for speedy implementation of the KPA recommendations especially in formulation and implementation of relevant population policies.

(b) Fertility levels, patterns differences and trends in some African countries (E/ECA/PSD.5/26)

225. In his introduction to this agenda item, the representative of the secretariat first indicated that for reasons of comparability of findings

and reliability of data,the study was based solely on data from the World Fertility Survey and the Contraceptive Prevalence Survey of the Westinghouse Public Applied Systems. A total of 16 African countries had been covered by the study.

226. Fertility levels were high in Africa; the total fertility rate was about 6.22 in Africa or three times higher than the rate of 2.22 required to renew a population and this was quite different from the rest of the world.

227. The analysis of the fertility structure by age groups on the basis of fertility rates was characterized by a wide spread of birth over the entire period of procreation. Although there was a downward trend in such rates after 30 years, they were still high for the 40-49 age group. Adolescent fertility appeared to be important since it accounted for between 13 to 15 per cent of recent fertility. Generally speaking, the contribution of the various age groups to fertility showed that Africa still had a classical fertility tempo pattern where women continued to reproduce until they approached 45.

228. With respect to recent fertility trends, fertility appeared to be stationary in most of the countries studied. There was a downward trend in the three Arab countries covered by the study while there appeared to be a recent rise in fertility in Cameroon. A decline in fertility at young ages should be expected but probably not a considerable reduction in completed fertility because of the increase in fertility which might come about at higher ages. The result was that fertility would remain at a high and stable level in most African countries and might probably rise in others that currently had problems of infertility and sub-fertility.

229. With respect to the determinants of fertility, the levels of fertility observed in Africa might be the outcome of factors such as the pro-natalist attitude of people, early and almost widespread marriage, the social status and economic role of African women. He stressed the importance of proximate determinants of fertility such as breast feeding, amenorrhea and sexual abstinence after child birth in determining the duration of intervals between successive births.

230. In conclusion, he recommended that the Conference adopt the following measures to bring about a decline in fertility levels: improving the social status and economic role of African women, upgrading traditional fertility control methods, increasing the age at first marriage and waging publicity campaigns with respect to the notion of responsible parenthood.

231. In the ensuing discussions, some representatives deplored the fact that the secretariat had not given greater importance to classical factors of fertility and stressed the importance of the impact that the level of education of women had on fertility levels.

232. Other speakers criticized the fact that conclusions from data on only 16 countries had been generalized at the continental level and requested the representative of the secretariat to qualify his conclusions on rising fertility trends in some countries. Such trends could be the outcome of an improvement in the quality of data and might therefore not be real.

233. The representative of Rwanda explained that the relatively high contribution of Rwandese women who were 30 and over to recent fertility might be attributable to their nuptiality and fertility characteristics, i.e., mainly fertility within marriage.

234. The representative of UDEAC stressed the need to undertake studies on infertility and sub-fertility in some African countries and recalled the recommendations made to the secretariat during the Fourth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers.

235. In reply to the various speakers, the representative of the secretariat said that he was aware of the effect of socio-economic factors on fertility but merely wanted to draw the attention of the Conference to the importance of proximate determinants of fertility in Africa. The level of education of women was an equally crucial factor of fertility. Moreover, all the data available point to the rising trend in fertility in Cameroon; such rises in fertility levels should be expected in countries with pockets of high sterility. He had to be cautious in drawing conclusions during his presentation in view of the inadequacy of data currently available in terms of quantity and quality.

Population distribution, redistribution and drought [agenda item 23 (a)]

236. In presenting "Evaluation of population distribution and redistribution policies in African countries" (E/ECA/PSD.5/27), a representative of the secretariat remarked that recent African development plans have called attention to the problems of uneven spatial population distribution and proposed strategies to solve them and that the background document attempts an assessment of the various strategies, especially rural development programmes. He pointed out that a content analysis of selected development plans concluded that (a) though concern about issues of population distribution and redistribution was common, explicit measures were frequently absent; (b) there was a lack of comprehensiveness in their treatment of population redistribution measures; and (c) the demographic-spatial contents of the plans were fragmentary.

237. Regarding the migration consequences of rural-oriented strategies, the representative pointed out that they resulted in varied and unexpected migration consequences mainly because the demographic characteristics of the affected population sub-groups and/or areas were not properly taken into account during the formulation of the projects.

238. In the light of these findings, the secretariat proposed measures aimed at enhancing the formulation, implementation and monitoring of population distribution and redistribution strategies, which the meeting was called upon to review and ascertain their relevance and practicability in individual countries.

239. In the discussion that followed, two issues were raised by the participants. The first was a request that emphasis should be given to population distribution studies and research by the secretariat. The second issue pertains to the diversity of population distribution problems (e.g., the importance of the various types of migration, e.g., rural-rural and urban-urban in various countries).

240. In reply, a representative of the secretariat remarked that emphasis is being given to studies and research of population distribution problems, with a study on the effects of population distribution on agricultural development featuring in the work programme of the secretariat during this biennium, 1988-1989.

Drought and population: The case of the Sahel [agenda item 23(b)]

241. A representative from the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), from the Centre for Studies and Research on Population for Development (CERPOD/Institute of the Sahel) presented document E/ECA/PSD.5/28 on Drought and Population: The case of the Sahel. He first stressed the necessity of taking into account drought and its effects (particularly demographic effects) in development planning in the countries affected by this scourge. He went on to deal with the natural and man-made causes of drought and ecological degradation. There was no scientific concensus on the explanation of drought. The "advocates of natural causes" were opposed by the "advocates of socio-political causes" who based their arguments essentailly on the effects of drought caused by the people of the Sahel and their existing social structures. The representative of CILSS felt, however, that although there are decisive factors there are also crucial interrelationships combining natural factors and human action which contribute to a greater understanding of the ecological situation of the Sahelian countries. Only a highly varied analysis covering various localities was able to explain the situation and its evolution. Considering the demographic consequences of drought and ecological degradation, the representative of CILSS explained that these were still little known. The scale of migration was obvious, but little studied; theories had been put forward on the drop in fertility, the increase in morbidity and higher mortality caused by famine and malnutrition, but no broad study had been carried out to verify the facts. Thus, as an initial step, research on the interrelationship between drought and population should be carried out, such as that proposed by the Sahel Institute. In terms of concrete action, measures must be taken to adjust the human population densities to the actual potential, by the well organized transfer of peoples and/or by family planning programmes. Steps (vaccination programmes, essential medicine banks, food support etc.) should be taken to reducing the morbidity and mortality linked to the drought. In conclusion, the representative of CILSS stressed the fact that the Sahelian population made use of numerous strategies (including demographic measures) to struggle against drought and its effects and that all policies must be inspired by that, if they are to succeed.

242. During the course of the discussion, the participants showed their interest in the presentation, particularly for its originality. Most of them stressed the necessity of paying particular attention to rural migration. In most work on rural migration, these movements are hidden under the title of rural exodus. One participant regretted that the presentation hadn't been widened to cover all environmental problems, so that all the African region could have been considered.

ECA regional population training and research institutes (agenda item 24)

243. The background document for this agenda item was "progress report on the activities of the Demographic Training and Research Institutes - RIPS (Accra) and IFORD (Yaounde)" - (document E/ECA/PSD.5/29).

244. In presenting the RIPS progress report the Officer-in-Charge of RIPS recalled that ECA has been the executing agency since 1982; a function previously carried out by DTCD. The teaching and research programmes were aimed at providing high level manpower in the population field, to the African countries.

245. The regionalization of the institute and the subsequent non-payment of contributions by the member States, coupled with UNFPA's decision to scale down its financial support to the institutes, had led to the idea of restructuring the institutes in order to make them more affordable to the member States. The Extraordinary Joint Meeting of the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD in March 1986 had examined various ways of reducing costs. The 12th meeting of the RIPS Governing Council in February 1987 had examined the proposals of the Joint Meeting and created a Working Group to study these in detail. The recommendations of the Working Group were studied and approved by the 13th meeting of the RIPS Governing Council in February 1988. The restructuring proposals though approved by the Governing Council, however faced an impediment in that the member States contributions necessary to put them into effect were not forthcoming even though the proposals if accepted by the ECA Conference of Ministers and the United Nations General Assembly, were to come into effect in 1989.

246. As regards the institutes work programme the new M.A. programme introduced in October 1985 had so far admitted 44 students in 1985, 33 students in 1986 and 33 again in October 1987. Out of the 43 students who completed the 1985/1986 academic year 35 passed in 1986 and 4 repeaters passed in 1987. Of the 33 students admitted in 1986, 32 passed their exams. As regards the M. Phil course nine students completed their theses in 1986/1987. Ten other students were presently working on their theses. There also three PH.D. students at the institute. It is planned that when they finish their work, five students would be admitted to this course in 1989.

247. The Institute also organized field work annually for its students. Senior staff also conducted their own individual research and provided advisory services to governments on request. Use of the Institutes main frame computer had greatly facilitated research by both staff and students.

248. In presenting the IFORD progress report, the Officer-in-Charge of IFORD pointed out that RIPS and IFORD have the same history since their creation, their regionalization and their restructuring programme. The 14th meeting of the IFORD Governing Council had created a Working Group on the proposed restructuring. The Group held two meetings (in Yaounde and Addis Ababa) and its report had been sent to all the member countries for their comments. Eight countries had responded by the time of the 15th Governing Council meeting in March 1988. In general the responding countries supported the idea of IFORD becoming an intergovernmental institution sponsored by ECA. Some

countries however doubted whether the economies of African countries would recover sufficiently by 1992 for them to be able to pay more than they were being asked to pay now. The last Working Group meeting just before the 15th Governing Council did not look into restructuring proposals as it felt that the present problems confronting the Institute should be solved first.

249. As regards the Institute's activities, the period 1986/1987 should be seen as a transitional period. Up to 1984, IFORD had recruited around 20 students annually. The 13th Governing Council meeting however decided that students be recruited every other year. Since then 24 students were recruited in 1985 and 34 in 1987. Thirty students obtained the Institute's Diploma between 1986 and 1987 out of 39 admitted. The one year course on research continued to be organized with 2 or 3 students being admitted each year. Students were also received from ENSEA in Abidjan.

250. IFORD had acquired a number of micro-computers and its documentation centre had been strengthened. Students now prepared individual theses and the Institute's courses had been reorganized.

251. As regards research, the analysis of the surveys on infant and child mortality were continuing. A new research project on the medium-sized towns had started with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation. Individual research work was progressing and 19 articles had been prepared by the lecturers of which six have been published. Four issues of the Annals de l'IFORD, six issues of the Bulletin de liaison and four issues of IFORD-BIBLIO-INFO had been published. For the long term IFORD was building up a data bank.

252. IFORD had also participated in many conferences and seminars and had provided seven consultancy services to the member countries and international organizations. IFORD had organized jointly with IUSSP an International Seminar on Mortality and Societies in sub-Saharan Africa in October 1987.

253. IFORD presently faced a grave financial situation. Salaries of local staff had not been paid in January and February 1988 until contributions were received in March 1988 from Cameroon and Benin. The future was therefore dependent on the receipt of member States' contributions.

254. In his presentation, the Officer-in-Charge of CERPOD (CILSS) informed the meeting of the five-year plan (1988-1992) approved for the work of CERPOD whose creation was approved by the twenty-second session of the CILSS Council of Ministers.

One of CERPOD's programmes, the Demographic Research Programme (PRDS), was funded by USAID and UNFPA. Another programme on development planning was funded by UNDP and executed by UNESCO.

255. The methodological and analytical reports of the surveys on infant mortality carried out in Senegal, Mali and Bourkina Faso were being printed. A project on the collection of health data was carried out jointly with the Ministry of Health of Senegal. A survey on population and health was also conducted in Mali with the assistance of the project DHSS/Westinghouse Health Systems in 1987. A preliminary report is being published.

A joint study with INED on vital registration in Bamako covered deaths during the period 1974 to 1985.

256. Fellowship had been given for students to study at the PH.D. level in American universities as well as at ENEA in Dakar. In March 1987 a colloque was organized in Dakar on the demographic history of the Sahel countries. Support had also been given to the statistics departments of the member countries through the provision of micro-computers.

257. Since November 1986 a newsletter called Pop-Sahel had been issued with the fifth issue being published recently. The CERPOD work plan (1986-1992) covered four areas namely, family planning research and studies, training, scientific and technical information and technical assistance and co-operation.

258. In April 1987 a meeting on the financing of CERPOD was held in Bamako. A large part of the cost of the CERPOD work programme of $17 million had already been financed.

259. The representative of CEPED introduced the activities of his Centre. CEPED grouped together five French institutions (EHESS, INED, INSEE, ORSTOM and the University of Paris 6), and co-ordinates their activities as regards research, training and technical assistance. Presently CEPED had a small team of six researchers.

260. A representative of the secretariat introduced the draft resolution entitled "African Demographic Training Institutes" and the paper on the rotation of members of the IFORD Governing Council.

He pointed out that the draft resolution called for the adoption of the new draft statutes of RIPS which incorporates the idea of restructuring RIPS. It also drew attention to the critical financial situation of RIPS and IFORD and calls for support from the African Governments and UNFPA.

261. In the discussions which followed many delegates paid tribute to the good work done by RIPS and IFORD since their creation. They stressed the need for countries to pay their contributions as many had never contributed but continued to benefit from the facilities of the institutes. There was a need to save both IFORD and RIPS.

262. Delegates stressed the need to express solidarity with IFORD and RIPS. It was necessary for delegates to take action to plead for support for IFORD and RIPS when they returned home.

263. The delegate of Djibouti thanked IFORD for the course it had organized for middle-level staff. Fifty people had benefited from the course and were now contributing significantly to the development of statistics in Djibouti.

264. A suggestion was made that copies of theses or their summaries should be made available to the member countries.

265. The representative of CEPED expressed the concern of France in the problems facing IFORD. It was up to the African countries to assume political responsibility for IFORD. However France was ready to increase its assistance to IFORD.

266. The Committee expressed the wish that African Countries represented on the Governing Council of UNDP/UNFPA should be requested to plead for continued financial support for RIPS and IFORD at their Governing Council meetings.

267. The Officer-in-Charge of RIPS expressed his thanks to the Governments of Ghana and Nigeria for their support of RIPS. The Officer-in-Charge of IFORD also expressed his thanks to the Government of Cameroon and Benin as well as the other countries which have been supporting IFORD. Both also made an appeal to delegates to urge their respective Governments to give support to the Institutes.

268. The draft resolution on the African Demographic Training Institutes was adopted with minor ammendments. It is to be submitted to the plenary session of the Joint Conference and the ECA Conference of Ministers.

269. The Committee also adopted proposals for rotating membership of the Governing Council of IFORD in accordance with Article IV of the statutes of the Institute. The Governing Council now comprises Cameroon, Maroc, Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Zaire, Madagascar and Djibouti with Algeria, Guinea, Mali, Rwanda, Chad and Comoros being the outgoing countries.

Report on population activities (1986-1987), examination of work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991) (agenda item 25)

270. Referring to document E/ECA/PSD.5/30, the representative of the secretariat described ECA's population activities for the biennia 1986-1987 and 1988-1989 and the proposed work programme for 1990-1991.

271. During the period 1986-1987, the population programme had comprised three subprogrammes: (a) population policies and development planning; (b) demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development; and (c) support to regional training and research. The secretariat described each programme element, including advisory services provided to member States in the formulation and implementation fo their population policies and in the evaluation of demographic data, meetings of groups of experts and main publications that covered areas as varied as fertility, mortality, family planning, infant mortality and population information.

272. The approved work programme for 1988-1989 had been submitted to the legislative organs in the past on the assumption that regular budget resources would be maintained at the level of the preceding period. That was not sure to be the case. Therefore, the secretariat ran the risk of facing difficulties in implementing the programme. In its main outlines, the work programme took over from where the previous one had left off by laying emphasis on advisory services, training, research and population information.

273. For 1990-1991, it had been assumed that resources would be maintained at the usual level. The secretariat proposed that emphasis should continue to be placed on studies on infant mortality, mortality in general, fertility and population redistribution including migration and urbanization. Methodological studies and models for the integration of demographic variables in development planning should be one of the priorities in the African region in view of the absence of techniques appropriate to the African context characterized by lack of data in certain areas.

274. One representative enquired about the selection of candidates for seminars and other meetings organized by ECA. The representative of CILSS requested that ECA should provide active support to the Sahel Institute.

275. The representative of the secretariat explained how government delegates and other experts were invited to various ECA meetings. He also recalled the mandate given to the secretariat regarding support for the Sahel Institute. Such support would be specifically mentioned in the 1990-1991 programme of work when it is being prepared for submission to the legislative organs.

276. The Committee took note of the report of the secretariat on the work programme. It approved the proposals for 1990-1991.

Conclusions and Recommendations adopted by the Demography Committee

1. The Committee, noting with satisfaction that African countries have recognized the importance of population factors in the national development process, as recommended by the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action adopted in 1984, reiterates to Governments to take steps to integrate population factors in the development plans.

2. Noting that population growth does not constitute the only population problem recommends not to give too much importance to it as it would mean minimizing the role of other factors such as: high fertility, high mortality, uneven population distribution and migration.

3. Recommends that in addressing population problems due account should be taken: (a) of the relation of national development to the volume and/or structure of population, migratory movements and cultural factors; and (b) the quality of environment and distribution of national income.

4. As no optimum population growth rate can be determined à priori Governments are encouraged, to assess their growth rates in relation to the structure and growth of GDP, future trends, and unacceptable population densities.

5. Governments should promote increased education, advancement of women and their participation in the development process, changes in national culture through family legislation and implementation of policies aimed at protecting mothers and children, which will help bring down fertility.

6. Governments are urged to address the serious obstacles to economic takeoffs posed by the low life expectancy in Africa, high dependency ratios and precarious social welfare to rationalize spending on public health and education sectors, for which, studies might be of help; and to make better use of the advice of demographers in decision-making process.

7. African Governments are urged to continue analysing of their data and preparing global and sectoral demographic projections.

8. Governments are encouraged to make better use of national expertise in undertaking national or regional population studies and research activities.

9. African Governments are invited to continue to give support to the regional population training and research institutes, as these institutes provide good quality staff for national institutions.

10. African Governments are encouraged to improve the conditions of service of population specialists in order to prevent their movements to other sectors.

11. ECA is urged to provide more assistance to African Governments by organizing national or regional workshops and seminars for groups of countries on aspects of the population problem, the preparation of relevant policies and the inclusion of population data in national development plans.

12. The specialized agencies of the United Nations are urged to step up and co-ordinate their assistance to African countries and to take into account national realities as well as the options of governments with respect to population.

13. The Committee urged family planning activities to co-ordinate their activities and work closer with other national institutions entrusted with data collection and analysis, research training and promoting small- and medium-sized enterprises.

INFORMATION SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Election of officers (Agenda item 27)

277.The following officers of the Information Science Committee were elected: Mr. Tahar Ayouz (Algeria), Chairperson; Mr. Letsela Phamotse (Lesotho), First Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Ndhlovu Shitima (Zambia), Second Vice-Chairperson; and Mr. Lansana-Sylla (Guinea), Rapporteur.

Training facilities available for the training of information and documentation scientists in Africa (Agenda item 28)

278.The secretariat introduced the document "Available Training Facilities for the Training of Information and Documentation Scientists in Africa", (E/ECA/PSD.5/31) which contained the results of a survey conducted by the secretariat. The secretariat brought to the attention of delegates recent developments in the field of training of information scientists in Africa, namely the establishment of a regional information science school at Ibadan University (Nigeria) to cater for the English-speaking West African countries, and another one to be established at Addis Ababa University (Ethiopia) to cater for Eastern and Southern Africa. These two institutions were to provide two-years' training courses at the masters' degree level.

279.In the debate that followed, some delegates felt that the survey had omitted a number of countries and attributed this to the problem of the definition of the discipline of information science. It was felt that the concept "information science" had to be clearly defined by itself as well as in relation to other disciplines such as demography, planning, and statistics. On this question, the secretariat informed the Committee that the question of the definition of information science had been discussed by the same Committee during the fourth session of the Joint Conference (1984), where it had been agreed that the concept should include informatics, documentation and library sciences. Further the seventeenth session of the ECA Conference of Ministers, meeting in Tripoli in 1982, had decided to include information scientists within the Joint Conference of African Statisticians, Planners and Demographers. The secretariat was requested to prepare a glossary of terms in use in information science in the region and circulate it to the Committee before its next meeting.

280.Some delegates felt that the survey had been too heavily oriented towards libraries and documentation centres leaving out computer and documentation science and other allied fields. It was explained that the survey had been directed mainly to universities on the basis of a questionnaire distributed to the Third

ECA/AAU Conference of Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and Rectors of Institutions of Higher Learning in Africa, meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe in January 1987.

281.Regarding the activities of the Pan African Documentation and Information System (PADIS), it was suggested that its emphasis should be placed clearly on development information.

282.On the subject of PADIS national participating centres, some delegates felt that PADIS had put more emphasis on these centres at the expense of concentrating on creating a multi-sectoral system, as had been conceived, to respond to the needs of other sectors such as statistics, demography, science and technology. It would be desirable, it was felt, for the national participating centres to be entrusted with the co-ordination and operation of multi-sectoral information networks at the national level.

283.In response to a question on the availability of computers and related personnel in Africa, it was noted that similar studies had been carried out biennially since 1982; moreover, two studies on the use of micro-computers were being presented to this Conference.

284.Regarding the proposed curriculum for the training of information scientists at Addis Ababa University, delegates felt that the proposed duration of 2 years was excessive, and that a one- year postgraduate masters' programme would be adequate. It was suggested that the course start as a one-year post graduate diploma which could be subsequently upgraded to a masters' degree. The secretariat was requested to transmit the Committee's concern to the concerned parties over the duration of the proposed course at Addis Ababa University. On the question of availability of fellowships for such training programmes, the secretariat stated that the fellowships available to PADIS were few, designed mostly to cover expenses of staff from national participating centres for a maximum period of 2 months at institutions in Africa.

285.The Committee considered training of information scientists in Africa crucial in view of the rapid changes in information technology. It also viewed with concern the available training facilities in Africa and the low priority accorded by most African Governments to the training of information scientists, while noting with satisfaction the efforts being made by PADIS to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the present training institutions in the area.

286. The Committee recommended that the training of information scientists, especially at graduate and post-graduate levels, should be stepped up, and that African Governments should support

institutions making efforts in this area. It was also emphasized that, whilst advocating the training of more people in this area, the problem of supply and demand needed to be considered critically in view of the high rate of underemployment of trained personnel in Africa.

287. It was further recommended that existing training institutions in this area should introduce courses in information science in view of the pace of technological change. Given the limitation on resources, emphasis should be placed on strengthening existing institutions that could develop into regional training centres.

Report on PADIS activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991) (Agenda item 29)

288. The secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.5/32, bearing the same title as the agenda item. It was noted that in addition to the on-line data bases described in the document, an indexed data base of resolutions of the ECA Conference of Ministers had been developed; it presently covered the years 1986-1987, but its coverage was being extended. Countries which had not yet done so were urged to name their focal point for participation in PADIS. It was noted that a mission was to be undertaken this month to Lusaka to launch the operations of the East and Southern African Information System (ESADIS).

289. In the debate on this item, questions were raised on the necessity of naming national participating centres in PADIS, since the ministries of planning already served as focal points for ECA activities in member States, and whether, with only 16 national participating centres to date, PADIS could deliver its 1988-1989 work programme to the benefit of all member States. It was noted that the practice of naming special focal points for specific secretariat activities was general, and that beneficiaries of PADIS activities were not limited to States with national participating centres; rather the designation of such focal points facilitated the delivery of technical assistance in a planned manner. Several delegates underlined the importance of the designation of national participating centres.

290. Several representatives raised the need for advance information on PADIS' training activities. The importance of PADIS' undertaking promotional initiatives to correct the problem of underutilization of the system by member States was emphasized. These activities could be undertaken in collaboration with national co-ordinating centres; publicity

materials could be sent to national press agencies. The secretariat informed the Committee of its initiatives to improve user services, beginning with a study of user needs in Anglophone countries that was planned for extension to French and Arabic speaking countries in 1988, and the establishment of a user services section.

291.Clarification was sought on the nature of PADIS activities in information systems and electronic data processing. It was explained that PADIS had two roles at ECA, viz., (1) the operation of a co-operative development information system to serve member States, and (2) the delivery of electronic data processing services to the ECA secretariat. It was not a computer service bureau for member States, but only within the context of secretariat users. The PADIS' computer was thus a service node for the ECA. Questions were also raised about the scope and mission of PADIS. PADIS, it was proffered, had been established as a multi-sectoral co-operative development information system for African member States, based on bibliographic, referral and statistical data bases and utilizing modern technology in the field. While microfiche and hard copies of documents could be supplied to users for most of the documents in the data base, it was noted that technological developments could help solve the problem of providing users with direct access to primary documents.

292. The Committee was informed that the Central African and Documentation and Information System (CADIS), being established in Zaire, was meant to serve the three countries of the Gisenyi-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (MULPOC), as well as the seven countries of the Yaounde-based MULPOC. PADIS was to undertake shortly a mission to launch CADIS.

293. Progress made in the implementation of the PADIS programme was underscored. It was pointed out that since member States had made a commitment to PADIS, the general proliferation of information systems in the region should be avoided, in order not to squander scarce resources. However, the development of information systems within institutional participating centres in the PADIS network was to be encouraged, since this would strengthen the system as a whole.

294. Regarding the undertaking of a study on the updating and adapting of PADIS requested by the PADIS Regional Technical Committee, the secretariat explained that it had been delayed because of non-availability of funds; efforts would be made to locate the necessary means so that the study could be undertaken.

295. In order to raise awareness in the region on the important contribution of statisticians, demographers, planners and

information scientists to economic and social development, it was felt that a day or week could be set aside at regional level, to be commemorated with national activities such as conferences or workshops.

296. The Committee noted with satisfaction the performance of the Regional Technical Committee during its first four years and recommended, through the Joint Conference, to the ECA Conference of Ministers the extension of its mandate for a second term of four years of the five experts in telecommunications, library science, information and/or computer science representing member States on the Regional Technical Committee for PADIS, viz., Algeria, Ethiopia, Niger, Zaire and Zambia.

Adoption of the report (Agenda item 30)

297. The rapporteur presented the draft report which was adopted as amended.

PLANNING AND STATISTICS
(Joint committee meeting)

Application of accounting framework to national planning
(agenda item 31a)

298. The secretariat introduced the agenda item on the basis of document: E/ECA/PSD.5/33 - Application of accounting frameworks to national planning. The following documents were provided for information: Report on the Seminar on the review of the United Nations System of National Accounts, Addis Ababa, 29 September - 3 October 1986 (E/ECA/PSD.5/34); Report of the Workshop on Capital Formation and National Accounts at Constant Prices for English-speaking Countries, 28 September - 2 October 1987 (E/ECA/PSD.5/35).

299. The secretariat outlined the characteristics of the main accounting frameworks designed for the systematic and integrated recording of data used for economic and social analysis and planning in countries of the African region, viz the System of National Accounts (SNA) and Social Accounting Matrices (SAMs). Mention was made of the applications to which the data called for in the SNA can be put for purposes of national planning and the fact that nearly all countries in the region compile national accounts, although the impact of the SNA structure on analytical work in these countries has been somewhat disappointing. On the other hand, there has been considerable progress in the theoretical and empirical development of SAM. The secretariat

said that SAM is largely an extension and elaboration of the input-output accounting system, introduced in response to the need to incorporate the demographic and social dimensions in development planning, although its use in the countries of the African region has so far been limited to a number of ad hoc case studies.

300. During the ensuing discussion, mention was made of the urgent need for reliable, relevant and up-to-date basic data in order to improve the national accounts, and the construction of meaningful input-output tables as well as social accounting matrices. The latter was singled out as an area where basic data requirements could be considerable. Several participants highlighted the need for adequate resources to enable national statistical services to better respond to the demands for data. Household surveys were mentioned as one of the means of obtaining basic data.

301. Participants noted the need for dialogue between producers and users (including universities) of data at the very beginning of the data collection process so as to improve the quality, usefulness and application of the results. Some participants made brief mention of how the problem was solved in their countries by involving relevant departments of the university.

302. The representative of the USSR briefed the Joint Committee on statistical development in his country. He mentioned some of the methods used to obtain and improve dialogue between producers and users of statistics, and noted the role of statistics in the on-going structural adjustment programme in the USSR.

303. In his contribution to the discussion, the Director of the Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) among other things, expressed the hope that the secretariat continue to address the critical areas of income distribution, the informal sector, rural-urban migration, etc., within the framework of the social accounting matrix.

Short-term economic forecasting and outlook (Agenda item 31(b)

304. The Secretariat presented the document entitled "Progress Report on the implementation of short-term forecasting models based on social accounting matrices" (E/ECA/PSD.5/37) and outlined the work that the ECA had undertaken since 1980 in the field of short-term forecasting systems. The ECA had initiated a pilot project covering eight countries namely Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Zaire, Rwanda, Cameroon, Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia. Since the beginning of the pilot projects forecasting models had

been implemented in Rwanda and Mauritius. Congo had also requested for ECA assistance to install a forecasting model.

305. The pilot project had revealed a number of problems that affected the effective implementation of short-term forecasting models based on social accounting matrices. These problems included data shortages, the scarcity of trained personnel, absence of appropriate computer hardware and software and institutional bottlenecks.

306. For the future, it was necessary to strengthen the work and ensure that the models can be used in the monitoring of structural adjustment programmes especially as regards the social dimensions of these programmes. Further, it was planned to study the integration of financial variables and the treatment of prices in the social accounting matrices. Given the importance of the informal sector in the African economies, it was desirable to find ways to incorporate the sector in the social accounting matrices.

307. In the discussion a delegate informed the meeting that his country would welcome ECA assistance in short-term forecasting. Another delegate informed the meeting that his country had established a social accounting matrix (SAM) and a simulation model based on the SAM. Many delegates pointed out that essentially the models presented were not forecasting models but rather policy simulation models. It was also cautioned that it was necessary to be very careful when interpreting the results of the models.

308. Regarding some of the problems raised, it was suggested that countries should tap the human resources available in the national universities. Also, problems of computer facilities should not constitute a major constraint as personal computers are becoming more affordable. Specific questions were asked regarding the minimum amount of data for the forecasting models based on social accounting matrices and the proposition of estimates in the matrices relative to the actual data. An observer pointed to the experiences in constructing social accounting matrices and noted that identifying the poor and vulnerable on the basis of income was not always easy. Sometimes, proxies for income had to be used.

309. The secretariat thanked the delegates for their valuable comments. In answer to the specific question of the minimum data required, he noted that the statistics needed dpended on the level of disaggregation that was aimed at in a particular social accounting matrix.

STATISTICS AND DEMOGRAPHY
(Joint committee meeting)

Review of demographic data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination during the period 1982-1987: Issues and problems (Agenda item 32)

310. The secretariat introduced the agenda item on the basis of the background document "Review of demographic data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination during the period 1982-1987: Issues and problems" (E/ECA/PSD.5/38).

311. The secretariat referred to some of the issues and problems relating to population censuses and demographic surveys which had been dealt with in the background document and called for the reaction of participants regarding the suggestions made for the improvement of the situation. Despite the improvements there were some issues and problems which needed to be given serious attention. These were related to interval between censuses, administrative organization, cartography, enumeration procedures, quality control and data processing.Attention of participants was also drawn to issues of specific relevance to demographic surveys which had been raised in the background document.

312. The secretariat pointed out that the background document highlighted the need for evaluation, analysis and dissemination of results especially in view of the imminent need of planners and the general dearth of demographic and related socio-economic information in the region. It was also pointed out that the census is the only major source for the needed data because the other sources like the registration system are as yet not sufficiently accurate. However, it was suggested that administrative operations and especially surveys could supplement the census and should hence be fully utilised in the interpretation of results. Indeed this has been successfully carried out in some countries.

313. The inordinate delays in analysing data were considered to be unsatisfactory and some of the causes for such delays were identified. It was suggested that some of the problems could be taken care of by training and advance preparations.

314. In addition to basic demographic analysis, it was seen to be essential to have analysis of socio - economic and household/ housing information with a view to formulate more effective development planning policies and programmes.

315. Evaluation of the data could be done through post enumeration surveys (PES), but if such an exercise could not be properly planned, then demographic analytical techniques would be the alternative method. In this connection every strand of information, including past censuses, surveys, administrative

operations and even the registration system could play important roles. Also evaluation of data should go beyond basic demographic variables and should consider socio economic and related variables. Again, errors and biases brought into data through the various steps and stages of an enumeration process should be documented, analysed and appropriate remedies incorporated or at least noted for future guidance.

316. The experience in the region clearly indicated that training local personnel while analysing the data was very satisfactory. Countries thus analysed data in more detail and this also improved the quality and relevance of the interpretations of results as well as the time required for such analysis. This also meant that the time usually required by resident international experts would not be exceeded. It was recommended that local personnel should be trained at all levels, so that future data analysis would be even more effective.

317. Publication and dissemination of results were also delayed but in many countries various methods were used to disseminate census data widely.

318. Following the presentation by the secretariat there was extensive discussion during which updated information on censuses and surveys carried out during the period was provided by participants and some observers.

319. Participants also made comments on the suggestion in the background document regarding the establishment of a permanent census office. An enquiry was made about the tasks of a permanent census office after a census enumeration was completed. It was also pointed out that the establishment of a census office with various units as suggested in the document would require extensive human and material resources.

320. The secretariat responded to the comments by pointing out that a census office could undertake various post-enumeration activities including analysis and evaluation of data as well as tests of enumeration procedures. It was also indicated that the strength of a census office would vary in relation to the stage of census operations. During intercensal period the number of staff could be small but at the start of preparations for the next census the office would have to be expanded and the required units fully set up.

321. In the area of census cartography some participants indicated that many countries could not afford the cost involved in census cartographic preparations. A suggestion was also made to the effect that since census maps are for general purposes they should be produced by the survey departments of respective countries.

322. One participant pointed out ,however, that although census mapping was expensive, it was worthwhile in view of the various important uses of census maps. He also noted that the cost of census cartographic work could be very high but if the exercise was carried out well, then subsequent ones would be less expensive. Further, the participant stated that a country's surveys department could provide only the basic maps but these needed to be transformed and updated by the census office and then used as a base to generate the various maps required for different census operations.

323. Participants commented on data processing involving the use of micro computers for all stages of census data processing. Some scepticism was expressed and a request made for information on the experience of countries which have adopted that strategy. It was suggested that the use of micro-computers should be evaluated and the cost of and personnel implications determined before the strategy recommended for general use.

324. The secretariat informed the meeting that at least one country, Burkina Faso with a population of about 8 million, had used micro - computers for the entire data processing phase of its last census 25 IBM-PC's were used for data entry and 3 IBM-PC/AT for post data entry processing (one each for batch files creation, data editing and tabulation). The storage devices used were Bernoulli boxes and standard magnetic tapes for backup. Also the following software packages were used: RODE/PC for data entry; CONCOR for data editing and CENTS-4 for tabulation. The duration of data entry was about 10 months.

325. The Conference was also informed that the DTCD/UN Statistical Office was in the process of preparing a technical manual on the use of micro computers.

326. Regarding sampling in censuses, some participants emphasized that sampling should be used to investigate some topics during census enumeration and also at the data processing stage to reduce census costs and to ensure- timely provision of data.

327. One participant mentioned the difficulties encountered by census organisers when it is closely associated with political matters. He requested that countries with such problems should be given assistance in developing procedures for the depoliticization of their census programmes.

328. In the discussion on issues relating to demographic surveys, some participants expressed the view that activities in that field had not been given sufficient treatment in the document. It was also pointed out that perhaps too much emphasis

was being put on censuses, and that instead adequate attention should be paid to surveys and assistance given in carrying them out.

329. It was further pointed out that countries in the region should be encouraged and assisted to improve their administrative records so that these would constitute reliable sources of demographic data. However some participants suggested that more use of existing data should be encouraged now even if the latters were still fragmentary. Indeed, these administrative records contain information which would be obtained with difficulty through surveys and censuses.

330. The secretariat indicated that efforts to improve administrative records should not reduce attention paid to censuses since data from both sources had their uses and should be regarded as complementary.

331. In the discussion on data analysis and dissemination it was suggested that a basic analytical framework should be prepared so that a country could aim at carrying out such analysis. It was also felt that preparation of plans for evaluation of data well in advance of data collection, was not quite practical since the type of evaluation required might be determined by the data itself.

332. It was brought to the attention of the secretariat that population policies and development programmes were hampered because of lack of sufficient data and their analysis. It was suggested that analysis should include documentation of the administrative and methodological problems faced in data collection and that such documents should be available for reference and as guide for appropriate actions.

333. There was also a suggestion that since PES has not been successful in evaluating census coverage, the enquiry could include additional information to supplement the census data and thus increase its value. It was appreciated that demographic analytical techniques could answer some of the problems on coverage and content and a suggestion was made that there is thus a need to elaborate on these techniques and make them generally available.

334. It was stated that one of the recommendations regarding caution on further data collection when the previous data have not been evaluated or analysed may adversely affect availability of data.

335. The representative of the UN Department of Technical Co-operation for Development (DTCD), pointed out that the level of

discussion of the agenda item had been very high and it indicated considerable improvement in the expertise in data collection and analysis in the African region since the period of the 1970 round of censuses.

336. The representative of the United States informed participants that the U.S. Bureau of the Census had prepared a document entitled "Programme for the 1990 Round of Censuses: Guidelines for Planning, Technical Assistance and Training". He indicated that the document would be useful for Statistical/ Census Offices and copies could be obtained from the International Statistical Programmes Centre.

337. Finally, the participant from Egypt informed the Conference that there were plans for the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) in Egypt to host a workshop on census - taking in Cairo to discuss problems relating to censuses carried out during the past century.

338. In responding to some of the comments by participants, the secretariat stated that during the working group meeting on recommendations for the 1990 round of censuses, a basic framework for analysis was prepared which went beyond the recommendation of the 1980 round in that it included socio - economic variables in addition to demographic characteristics. It was stated that the framework was not inflexible and that countries should prepare their analysis plans in consultation with users.

339. The secretariat agreed with the statement that demographic and related data were essential components for any effective planning and policy making and stressed that efforts should be made to analyse and interpret data and make them available to users in a fashion which may enable the users to utilise them.

340. Regarding the suggestion to include additional information in PES, the secretariat brought to the attention of the Conference that this may not be very useful, as experiences elsewhere have shown. It was agreed that there was a need for cataloguing the large number of demographic analytic techniques which are usually employed in evaluating data. It was also mentioned that this may be attempted at a sub - regional training workshop to be held at RIPS.

341. Some experience in the region had indicated that there was a tendency to feel that since there were large delays in producing the tables etc, there was very little value to the data and therefore new data may be collected. Inspite of the much reduced value of such data, still there may be quite a few lessons or information which may be derived from the so called obsolete data and this should be done before further data collection and duplication of similar information.

PLANNING AND DEMOGRAPHY

(Joint Committee Meeting)

Guidelines for integrating population variables in development planning for ECA member States (Agenda item 33(a))

342. The background document for this agenda item was «Guidelines for integrating population variables in development planning for ECA member States», E/ECA/PSD.5/41. In presenting this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat noted that in terms of attitudes adopted towards population variables in development planning, the ECA member States have come a long way from their laissez faire position in the 1970s to one in the 1980s that expresses the need to ensure that economic and population growth rates should be compatible. He then outlined the activities undertaken by these member States in the course of the 1974-84 decade in effecting the noted change of attitude and observed, however, that the efforts at ensuring effective integration have been hampered by insufficient data, insufficient research, lack of trained personnel and inadequate awareness amongst planners on the interrelationships between population and development. The representative then gave the history of the conception of the Guidelines from 1985 to its present format as presented to the session and indicated plans for its revision in the future.

343. The representative then noted that in terms of content, the Guidelines consist of two parts - the macro level planning and the sectoral level of planning. Regarding the macro planning level, he further noted that there were three elements: determination of the population - development interrelationships; determination of objectives and goals to be pursued in the course of the planning period; and the policies/programmes to be adopted in pursuance of these objectives/goals. The other activities to be undertaken in operationalizing the macro planning level comprise institutional arrangements, training, and information dissemination. At the sectoral level of planning, the representative further noted that the conceptual framework was essentially the same as that for the macro level excepting that the sectoral level requires a more specific formulation of the objectives and a more detailed specification of the socio-economic demographic interrelationships as they relate to the determination of the specific sectoral outcomes. In terms of the substantive content of each sector (agriculture, human resources, education, health and human settlements/housing), the representative observed that the problem areas, development objectives and policies/programmes should be stressed for each sector.

344. In the resulting discussion, delegates raised issues with the operational problems of implementing the various policies formulated by the member States to deal with different facets of the population problem as well as issues associated with evaluating, co-ordinating, and monitoring the implementation of the formulated

policies. In this regard, the need was stressed to evaluate the population units established to date in the various member States through the assistance of the UNFPA. The ILO representative intervened specifically on this note and indicated that in the course of 1988, the ILO team of Advisers for sub-Saharan Africa had a plan to undertake such an evaluation. The other problem areas raised by delegates related to the need for trained personnel to handle the various aspects of the integration process; the need to use national experts; the need to prepare guidelines for dealing with the other side of the interrelationship namely how development projects affect population variables; and, the need for UNFPA to increase its financial support for effecting the integration process.

345. In his response, the UNFPA representative explained that the UNFPA has developed a new strategy for sub-Saharan Africa effective July 1987 under which about US$10 m will be spent in supporting population activities annually in sub-Saharan Africa particularly in the areas of population censuses/surveys, data analysis/policies, MCH and IEC projects.

346. In his overview, the representative of the secretariat noted that in a final version of the Guidelines, all efforts will be made to ensure that besides the training institutes (RIPS, IFORD and IDEP), the contributions of OAU and the UN specialized agencies (ILO, UNESCO, HABITAT, FAO and WHO) will be drawn upon. In addition, the final version will ensure a more simplified write-up particularly on the implementation and evaluation aspects as well as the training aspects of the requirements to ensure effective integration.

347. In his summary, the Chairperson stressed the main points of the discussion and noted that these should be given particular emphasis in the final version of the Guidelines. Among these were the question of poor quality of data and what to do to improve the situation; the policy measures to be adopted in respect of the rapid rate of population growth, high fertility, spatial distribution and international migration; needed trained personnel; evaluation/monitoring/coordination of the implementation process; and the role of ECA in ensuring that these various facets are taken care of in a final version of the Guidelines.

Implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (Agenda item 33(b))

348. The background document for this agenda item was «Implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population», E/ECA/PSD.5/42. In presenting this agenda item, a representative of the secretariat noted that the secretariat had presented a summary of the 93 recommendations of the KPA to the plenary session of the 4th session of the Joint Conference. The present review by the secretariat was consistent with the request by that session for the secretariat to ensure that subsequent sessions be kept informed of the progress being made to implement these recommendations.

349. Regarding the role of the secretariat in this regard, the representative informed the delegates that since the last session, the secretariat had published the proceedings of the Regional Training Workshop on demographic estimates and projections; prepared the «Guidelines for integrating population variables in developing planning in ECA member States», used the medium of the African population newsletter for popularizing the recommendations of the KPA; used the medium of the Regional Advisory Services to ensure that the member States focus on the recommendations of the KPA; and, ensure that some of the specific studies of the ECA Population Division are focussed on the KPA recommendations.

350. With respect to the member States, the representative informed the Committee that the secretariat had despatched a questionnaire to member States re-their activities in the 9 main areas under which the KPA recommendations can be subsumed. He noted that the response rate was very low and called on delegates to ensure that the member States completed the questionnaire to ensure that at the next session of the Joint Conference, the secretariat wil be in a better position to report on the activities of the member States in terms of implementing the KPA recommendations. The representative then noted that based on the Monitoring Reports, it was obvious that the member States were actively implementing the KPA recommendations given the increase in their perceptions of and policies on population developed by the member States to deal with the problems of rapid population growth, high fertility, spatial distribution and international migration.

351. For the future, the representative proposed that the secretariat will continue to use the media of the African Population Newsletters to continue with the task of popularizing the KPA recommendations among the member States. He then requested delegates to comment on this proposal as well as that of using a questionnaire to assess the implementation of the KPA recommendations by the member States.

Population projections and national development planning in Africa
(Agenda item 33(c))

352. A representative of the secretariat presented the background document, «Population projections and national development planning in Africa», E/ECA/PSD.5/43 which, he pointed out, attempts an evaluation of the past and present uses of population projections in African development plans and programmes. The objective of the paper, he pointed out, were to identify past problems and suggest improvements on the integration of population projections in African development plans. He remarked that, (a) a growing number of African countries include population projections in their national development plans, a practice made possible by the recent availability of data, especially from population censuses; (b) the implications of population trends for social and economic development addressed by current African plans relate to population size having an adverse effect on aggregate economic growth and the consequences of, for exmple, future school-age and working-age populations, for the provision of social facilities; and

(c) overall, African development plans do not fully integrate population factors such as population projections because current planning models do not cater for the endogeneous treatment of population.

353. In the discussion that followed, the need for the creation of a decentralised data base, pertaining to sub-areas and population sub-groups for use in sectoral and sub-national projections, was expressed.

354. Delegates also proposed two additions to the recommendations contained in the background document, namely: (a) the strengthening of vital statistics/ civil registration systems in African countries, to facilitate the collection of alternative sources of data for population projections; and (b) population projections in African countries taking into account in their assumptions the numbers of vunerable groups such as refugees and children.

355. A representative of the secretariat, in reply, noted that assumptions on international migration are usually included in population projections done for African countries, although, he pointed out, the estimates of refugees usually present problems, as their numbers, within any time period, were not known with certainity within the framework of integrating population in development planning. He also stated that the secretariat has plans to conduct workshops and seminars on sectoral and sub-national projections, given their growing importance in the region, subject to the availability of funds.

Activities of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)

(Agenda Item 34)

356. A representative of the ECA secretariat introduced the documents entitled "Progress Report and Strategies for the Future Development of Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)" (E/ECA/PSD.5/44) and "Report of the second session of the Advisory Committee of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)", Nairobi, Kenya, 16-18 November 1987" (E/ECA/PSD.5/44/Add.1). She briefly traced the origins and background of the POPIN-Africa project.

357. Summarizing the major activities implemented during 1986/87, she indicated that the following were initiated/continued:

- POPIN-Africa Study Tour to Asia in which six representatives of POPIN-Africa visited population information and documentation facilities within Asia-Pacific POPIN to broaden their outlook regarding the scope, coverage and content of population information, education and communication activities.

- Efforts made to identify, establish and strengthen the national, subregional and sectoral participating centres. Negotiations are underway for UNFPA to support national activities in Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zaire. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Ottawa continued its support to CDC, IFORD and Sahel Institute for the strengthening of their population information and documentation activities.

- A training seminar/workshop was organized in 1986 for the heads of the SRPCs on methodologies for data input, processing, storage and retrieval and dissemination of population information as well as network planning and management.

- Collaboration was strengthened with the Panafrican News Agency (PANA) to carry features on population issues, and also with the Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA). These contacts have considerably enhanced the project's capacity to disseminate and diffuse population information.

- The following new publications were initiated - POPIN-Africa Country Bibliography Series Nos. 1 and 2 on Kenya and the Sahel respectively; draft versions of the Handbook for the implementation of population information centres in Africa; Guidelines for the bibliographic description and analysis of population information and family planning literature in Africa; and POPIN-Africa INFO.

358. Referring to the proposed programme of work for 1988-1991, the representative of the ECA secretariat informed delegates that the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee at its last meeting held in Nairobi in November 1987 reviewed progress made on the project and endorsed proposals for its future development. That Committee also adopted twenty-four recommendations. Concluding her presentation she noted the support already being given by the UNFPA, IDRC and other donor agencies and requested the meeting to give the encouragement and support so necessary for the attainment of the goals of POPIN-Africa.

359. The Joint Committee spent considerable time discussing the implications of POPIN-Africa's planned work programme for 1988-1991 in the light of the respective roles and functions of POPIN-Africa and PADIS. While recognizing the role that POPIN-Africa could play as an information support for population programmes in ECA member States, some delegates raised issues regarding funding, system compatibility, use of microcomputers and the development of national centres or focal points. Micro-computers have opened possibilities for users to have direct access to information. Some delegates considered compatibility a major obstacle and encouraged that problems be resolved at the regional centres before extending the system to nations. Others considered that integration of computers in daily life should not be sacrificed because of problems of compatibility which can now be solved by acquisition of the necessary technical knowhow. However because of the different stages of computerization in the various countries there was no straightforward answer as to whether priority should be given to subregional centres or national ones.

360. It was observed that national centres would have difficulty in surviving once external funding is stopped. However, the secretariat mentioned that national centres need not be completely new institutions and that they could function within existing structures. The secretariat also explained that POPIN-Africa is a decentralized network of institutions, centres, systems, networks in which the development of information infrastructures as appropriate to a country's needs and requirements is encouraged. It also explained that the network which works within the PADIS network without being parallel to it or in competition with it, encompassed more than a mere numerical or bibliographic system.

361. The Committee in reviewing the recommendations of the POPIN-Africa Advisory Committee requested that recommendation 8 should be amended to read "ESAMI be admitted as a sectoral participating centre". With this modification, the Committee adopted the recommendations.

362. The delegate of Ghana supported by Tanzania, while commending the secretariat for its work in the area of population information moved a recommendation to:

i) express appreciation to the UNFPA, IDRC and other donors for their continued support to the project and hoped that this support will continue and be further strengthened;

ii) appeal to other multilateral and bilateral donor agencies to provide additional financial and technical resources to assist in accelerating the development of the African network;

iii) request member States to make relevant institutional arrangements for the establishment of POPIN-Africa national participating centres or networks to support national population programmes, especially in the area of population information, education and communication (IEC); and,

iv) request UNFPA to give greater focus to the development of strong national population infrastructures in its needs assessment missions in the Region in line with the priority currently being accorded to population information, education and communication activities.

363. The Joint Conference subsequently adopted the recommendation.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
(Joint Committee meeting)

Progress report on the ECA Statistical Data Base (PADIS-STAT)
(Agenda item 35 a)

364. Under agenda item 35 a, the secretariat introduced the document entitled "The ECA Statistical Data Base : Selected Issues" (E/ECA/PSD.5/45), which dealt with the progress made since the last Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers, the problems encountered and the possible solutions regarding the development of the ECA Statistical Data Base.

365. A range of topics were discussed by the participants. It was proposed that ECA should produce a handbook on econometric modelling, projection methods and related subjects which could help simplify the work of the national statistical offices. This could be supplemented by organizing training workshops whenever the financial resources permit. They also emphasized that the exchange of information between ECA and member States could be made on magnetic media. ECA's assistance was requested in the establishment of statistical data bases similar to the one developed at ECA. This was especially relevant to countries with similar computers.

Use of micro-computers in statistics and information systems
(Agenda item 35 b)

366. Under agenda item 35 b, the secretariat presented the document entitled 'Statistical Computing on Micro-computers'(E/ECA/PSD.5/48). In summarizing the report, it was stated that micro-computers had become very important tools for the work in statistical offices. It was indicated that the development of hardware and software in the last few years encouraged the shift from the mini- and mainframe computers towards micro-computers.

367. The secretariat pointed out that the increased storage capacity and the improved clock-rate of micro-computers allowed data sets of reasonable size to be processed on micro-computers. In describing some of the features of statistical software packages, data base systems and word processing or desktop publishing softwares he emphasized the user-friendliness of most software packages on micro-computers. He also gave some recommendations for a minimum hardware configuration for the use of different software packages on micro-computers.

368. The secretariat gave a short outline of the possible prospects of the use of micro-computers in the nineties. He pointed out that the power of micro-computers regarding their storage capacity and their clock-rate was already comparable

with the power of mini-computers. The ease of operation of micro-computers and their low costs would allow more people to make use of computer facilities than in the past.

369. A delegate pointed out that in the presentation nothing had been said about the technical problems that may be caused by the use of micro-computers such as diskette crashes and power cuts. He further mentioned his experience about the high costs of the operation of micro-computers and gave the example of maintainance and of costs for printer ribbons for printers for mini- mainframe computers and micro-computers.

370. Another delegate pointed out that large investments on the purchase of mini- and mainframe computers and the training of staff had been made and that the existing equipment would have to be used for some time before it is replaced. It would, however, be desirable to integrate micro-computers into an existing mini- or mainframe computer system. He further stated that it would not be financially possible to have a micro-computer for each professional staff member. Micro-computers should therefore be shared between staff members.

371. In reply, the secretariat mentioned that the cost for protection of mini- or mainframe computers also have to be taken into consideration, particulary for surge protection and unbreakable power supplies. The high cost for printer ribbons, mentioned by one delegate, is mainly due to the specific model being used in his office. Other printers might only need ribbons for a fraction of the price mentioned .

372. Concerning the connection of micro-computers to mini-computers, the secretariat replied that hardware and software solutions for this problem were already existing and had already been installed within the secretariat between the PADIS mini-computer and a number of micro-computers in the divisions. The secretariat further stated, that the hardware mentioned in the document sometimes even surpassed the usual mini-computer equipment. 512 Megabyte hard disks for micro-computers gave at least the same facilities as the 404 Megabyte hard drives usually connected to mini-computers.

373. The Director of the United Nations Statistical Office pointed out that the short-term and long-term developments in the area of micro-computers should be distinguished. In the long term he expected positive prospects for the use of micro-computers in African countries. In the short term it could be useful to let young colleagues with some background knowlegde use these machines. He also mentioned that for a large number of small countries micro-computers could be a useful tool for data editing and the analysis of censuses. Small data bases could also be implemented on micro-computers.

374. Another delegate stressed that African countries should start paying more attention to the developments in the area of micro-computers. He mentioned that from his experience the production of printouts on micro-computers was a rather slow process. He then raised the question why micro-computers which were said to be so powerful were mainly seen to be used for word processing.

375. The secretariat replied, that the bulk of work of statistical offices was still devoted to the preparation of reports and publications. While pure statistical computing takes only a relatively short time, most time was needed to type and ammend the documents to be published.

376. Also under agenda item 35 b, the secretariat presented document E/ECA/PSD.5/47 entitled 'The Use of Micro-computers in Documentation and Information Centres in Africa'. Delegates found the study very useful, particularly in view of the fact that it was the first effort to measure the utilization of computers in documentation and information centers in the region. Since the sample was too small to provide representative results, they said that the study should be repeated to include all users of micro-computers in Africa. It was noted that even if local servicing of computers was available, there could still be problems in obtaining service.

PLANNING AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
(Joint committee meeting)

The supportive role of adequate documentation in plan preparation, implementation and monitoring (Agenda item 36)

377. The secretariat introduced a report entitled "Information and documentation systems for plan preparation, monitoring and evaluation" (ECA/PSD/5/49).

378. In ensuing discussions it was reported that information services that cater to development planning needs should strive to deliver accurate information within a very short period of time. As regards the types of information required for development planning purposes it was noted that needs changed dramatically over a period of time. Nevertheless, it was underscored that types of needs embraced statistical as well as nonstatistical (analytical) information. In this regard, frequent consultations between planners and the processors of

information at the national level was deemed essential. It was also considered essential that information practitioners have thorough knowledge of the fields of endeavour they are serving in. The recruitment of specialists in economics, population studies, statistics and related subjects and their further training in information work was one of the ways to ensure the generation of appropriate and high quality information services.

379. The manner in which information systems for development planning were implemented, as centralized or decentralized services, had a lot of bearing on the efficiency of service delivery. It was reported that, with advances in information technologies and the progressive application of micro-computing in information processing and retrieval, it has increasingly become possible to have decentralized information systems that serve groups of immediate users located at ministerial/sectoral levels. The experiences of other developing regions indicate that the small, decentralized systems gave rise to higher degrees of efficiency in the delivery of services. However, such decentralized information systems that serve groups of immediate users located at ministerial/sectoral levels. The experiences of other developing regions indicate that the small, decentralized systems gave rise to higher degrees of efficiency in the delivery of services. However, such decentralized systems were useful only if the tools engaged for classifying and processing eventually made possible data comparability and accessibility.

380. There is sufficient indication that a large body of available information remains under-utilized. Amongst other things, this was a result of (i) inappropriateness of the information to actual requirements; and (ii) the lack of awareness on the part of users that relevant information is available. The potential solutions are (i) the conduct of regular and frequent surveys of user requirements; and, (ii) the promotion (positive marketing) of available information products and services.

381. It has been recognized for a long time now that the level of resources made available to information pursuits were insufficient to bring about the desired degree of improvements in services. In this regard, the recognition planners could give to information work is vital by virtue of their role in resources allocation.

RESUMED PLENARY MEETING

Other business (agenda item 37)

382. Among the issues raised under this item were the duration, structure, content of the agenda, the nature and timeliness of documentation, the name of the Joint Conference and channels of communication between ECA and member States. The retirement of Mr. K.T. de Graft-Johnson, Chief of the Statistics Division, in July 1989 was also referred to, as this would be before the next session of the Joint Conference.

383. With respect to the duration of future sessions of the Joint Conference, it was recommended that it should not exceed six working days (Monday to Saturday inclusive). With a judicious selection of agenda items, the shorter duration of the Conference would not adversely affect the content and quality of the deliberations.

384. Another change suggested by the meeting was that Joint Committees should be abolished. The items normally dealt with by Joint Committees should be considered by either the Plenary or the appropriate specialised committee.

385. The meeting further recommended that the agenda should be considerably reduced to allow for in-depth discussions during the six days now allowed for the Joint Conference. Documents for the meeting should therefore be divided into two categories: discussion papers and technical reports meant only for only for information. Technical reports will comprise reports of relevant expert group meetings, seminars and workshops as well as technical studies. The secretariat could request member States to prepare some of these technical studies. It was also reaffirmed that documents should be despatched to reach member States by the stipulated time of 6 weeks before the commencement of the Conference. Papers received late made detailed and useful discussions impossible.

386. The meeting recommended to abstain from a change in name of the Joint Conference to include "Information Scientists". It stated that the term information scientists referred to data processors, data base specialists, data analysts and documentalists and that these different disciplines were already adequately reflected in the current title of the Joint Conference.

387. Questions were raised about the channels of communication between ECA and member States. The secretariat explained that these were determined by member States,

normally the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the Ministry of Planning. In certain cases the official channels have indicated that they have no objection to information copies being sent to substantive Ministries/departments. ECA is obliged to abide by the procedures established by member States. However, as soon as the names of delegates were communicated to the secretariat, arrangements would be made for them to receive the relevant documentation.

388. The Joint Conference also moved a vote of thanks to Mr. de Graft-Johnson in appreciation of his services to the development of African statistics.

Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Joint Conference (agenda item 38)

389. Following the recommendation of the Joint Conference to reduce the duration and scope of the agenda, the following agenda for its sixth session was adopted.

Plenary

1. Opening address

2. Election of officers

3. Adoption of the agenda
4. The review of economic and social conditions in Africa 1988-1989

5. The development and maintenance of national statistical data bases

6. Assessment of the social dimensions of structural adjustment programmes - survey aspects

7. Technical assistance in planning, statistics, demography and information science

Planning Committee

8. Election of officers

9. Perspective studies of the economies of the African region

10. Review of African planning practices in the light of agreed regional development strategies

11. Study on the informal sector

12. The Institute of Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

13. Report on ECA planning activities (1988-1989) and examination of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of the draft work programme (1992-1993)

14. Adoption of the report

Statistics Committee

15. Election of officers

16. The Statistical Development Programme for Africa: Selected issues

17. Progress report on the implementation of the environment statistics programme for Africa

18. Report on ECA statistical activities (1988-1989) and examination of approved work programme (1990-1991) and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993)

19. Adoption of the report

Demography Committee

20. Election of officers

21. The applicability of and justification for existing procedures for estimating and projecting population growth components in ECA member States

22. Evaluation of national experiences in the implementation of population policies in ECA member States in relation to the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action

23. The relative roles of socio-economic correlates, proximate determinants and MCH/Family planning programmes as determinants of fertility levels and declines in ECA member States: an empirical analysis

24. Report on population activities in 1988-1989, examination of approved programme of work for 1990-1991 and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993)

25. Adoption of the report

Information Science Committee

26. Election of officers

27. Progress report on the PADIS National Participating Centres

28. Report of PADIS activities in 1988-1989, examination of approved work programme for 1990-1991 and consideration of draft work programme (1992-1993)

29. Adoption of the report

Resumed Plenary

30. Other business

31. Consideration of the draft provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Joint Conference

32. Review of committee deliberations and summary of main conclusions

33. Adoption of the Report of the Joint Conference to the ECA Conference of Ministers

390. The Joint Conference recommended also that the following technical reports and reports of meetings should be prepared for its information for the next session.

(1) African framework for structural adjustment programmes: The report of the seminar on structural adjustment programmes

(2) Use of statistical information for monitoring the implementation of development plans

(3) Study on the use of micro-computers in planning, statistics, demography, information and documentation

(4) Guidelines on the acquisition of computer facilities including micro-computers and their supporting software for statistical computing

(5) Report on multi-sectoral planning models

(6) Studies on the structure of African markets: the establishment of the African common market

(7) Effective links between fiscal and monetary policies and their impact on the balance of payments

(8) Review of training facilities in the Africa region in information sciences

(9) SNA review

(10) Progress report on short-term forecasting and outlook

(11) Methodological and technological innovations in the areas of demographic data collection, processing and analysis

(12) Biennium report on the activities of the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa)

(13) Report of the Fourth meeting of PADIS Regional Committee

Review of committee deliberations (agenda item 39)

391. Under this agenda item, the four committees brief y reported on the content and outcome of their deliberations. A number of resolutions were also adopted for consideration by the E A Conference of Ministers. These dealt with the Institute for Econom c Development and Planning, Africa and global modellin , multi-sectoral planning and African demographic traini g institutes.

Adoption of the report (agenda item 40)

392. The Joint Conference then adopted its report f r presentation to the Fourteenth meeting of the ECA Conference f Ministers.

D. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION BY THE ECA CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS

African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP)

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolution 612 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 in which it noted with satisfaction the conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation Mission on UNDP Assistance to IDEP and endorsed those recommendations;

Taking note of:

Member States expressions of their satisfaction with the training programme of the Institute as expressed in various resolutions and to the Evaluation Mission during its visits to member States;

The fact that member States supported and showed strong interest in the activities of the Institute both directly and indirectly through the nomination of their nationals for different training programmes at the Institute;

The recent decision of the UNDP conveyed to the Governing Council of IDEP at its 30th meeting to the effect that UNDP assistance to IDEP's training activities in other words funding for management and teaching posts would be terminated at the end of December 1989;

The fact that many member States have not been paying their contributions regularly;

The new 5 year Medium-term Plan adopted by the Governing Council for implementation;

Recognizing that the Institute cannot continue without financial support from member States and the implications of UNDP's decision to withdraw assistance, on the future of the Institute;

1. Strongly support IDEP and request it to continue and strengthen its training programmes and start its expanded research and new advisory/consultancy services as planned;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Governing Council of IDEP and the Director to ensure that effects are made to implement the new Medium-term Plan approved by the Governing Council at its 30th meeting;

3. Strongly urges all member States to translate their expression of support for the Institute into action by paying their annual contribution regularly;

4. Call on to all member States which owe arrears in their contribution to make every effort to pay these arrears at the rate of at least 10 per cent per year in line with previous resolution;

5. Expresses sincere gratitude to those member States which have been paying their contributions, urges them to continue and appeals to those members which can make voluntary contributions to do so;

6. Expresses its appreciation to the Executive Secretary of ECA for already agreeing, as announced to the Governing Council at its recent meeting, to provide funding for some management and research posts at IDEP;

7. Invites:

(a) the UNDP firstly to continue the support it has been giving to IDEP though with a shift in emphasis to research and creation of capacity for IDEP's new advisory and consultancy services in line with the recommendations of the Evaluation Mission as adopted by the Governing Council and the ECA Conference of Ministers and secondly to assist it by way of offering projects for implementation by IDEP for payment;

(b) the ADB firstly to assist IDEP materially in the creation of the capacity for the new advisory and consultancy services at IDEP and secondly by offering projects to the Insitute for implementation for payment which will help make IDEP at least partially self-sufficient in terms of resources.

8. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA, first to collaborate with IDEP in the implementation of the 5 year plan especially by way of funding posts at IDEP. Secondly to present as part of its programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to the General Assembly for approval the request for regular posts for IDEP already approved by ECOSOC and in this connection to begin negotiations immediately as a matter of urgency with the department concerned at UN Headquarters;

9. Calls on member States to support at the 5th Committee of the United Nations ECA's request for 4 regular posts for IDEP as part of ECA programme budget for the 1990-1991 biennium;

10. Requests the director of IDEP to launch a vigorous campaign in all member States to acquaint them with the activities of the Institute, in order to expedite payments of contributions; and to mobilize extra funds particularly for research from other extra budgetary sources both bilateral and multilateral;

11. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its continued support to IDEP.

Resolution on Africa and Global Modelling

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling its resolutions 470 (XVIII) of 2 May 1983 and 501 (XIX) of 26 May 1984,

Taking into consideration the various ongoing efforts at global modelling and their growing applications in analysing and influencing international economic relations,

Conscious of the various advantages that can be derived from Africa's fuller and more accurate representation in global modelling efforts especially as regards the impact of internationally transmitted economic distrubances on individual African countries and the entire region,

Bearing in mind, the limited and marginal way in which Africa is generally treated in most of the global models, in terms of individual country, subregional and regional coverage, appropriateness and relevance of model specifications that take into account the peculiarities and priorities of the region, and the policy scenarios which emerge from them,

1. Appeals to member States to undertake at the national level, efforts aimed at strengthening or initiating the development of modelling capability, including in particular, the initiation of macro-modelling programmes where it does not already exist, the widening of the scope of national income accounting data and information gathering, training of required manpower, acquisition of the necessary technical know-how and material such as the necessary computing hardware and software,

2. Calls upon African research and academic institutions at the national and subregional levels to assist in the realisation of modelling by taking concrete steps towards enabling individual countries and subregional groupings to building and maintain macro- economic models on a continuing and sustainable basis,

3. Requests the ECA secretariat to:

(a) continue, in collaboration with national and subregional institutions which have experience in modelling, to assist assist individual countries to initiate or strengthen model building capabilities,

(b) organize an African Meeting of experts on Global Modelling to bring together those involved in global modelling including and African planners and statisticians to draw-up a plan of action for Africa and the global modelling systems,

(c) seek necessary initial technical and financial assistance from donor countries and organizations to support the efforts of ECA and collaborating institutions within the region in the area of modelling.

Multi-Sectoral Planning

The Conference of Ministers,

Noting the importance and increasing role of the informal sector in the areas of employment creation, income generation, and satisfaction of basic needs of the African population;

Taking note of the recommendation of the Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Planning Models and Short-term Economic Forecasting for Policy Design in Development Planning and Management in Africa held in Moscow, USSR, 15-28 September 1986;

Conscious of the necessity of integrating the informal sector in development planning process in Africa;

Considering the necessity to support macro-economic planning by coherent regional planning at the country level;

Requests the ECA secretariat to organize a workshop on African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on (i) the integration of informal sector in the development planning process (ii) regional planning in Africa.

Invites donors as well as the agencies of the United Nations System (ILO, UNDP) to provide support and financial assistance for the convening of the Workshop.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

African Demographic Training Institutes

The Conference of Ministers,

Recalling General Assembly decision 37/444 of 21 December 1982 which approved the statutes of the two African demographic training institutes: the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS), and the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Demographiques (IFORD),

Recalling Conference of Ministers' resolution 489 (XIX) of 26 May 1984 which took note of the precarious financial state of IFORD due to the insufficiency and irregularity of contributions received from its member States,

Considering the intention of UNFPA to progressively reduce its financing of the institutes as approved by resolution 84/21 of the Fund's Governing Council,

Recalling further Conference of Ministers resolution 577 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 which recommended that African Governments should progressively take over the financing of the institutes so that by the end of a five-year transition period they will have assumed the financing of a significant part of the institutes' budgets and invited the Executive Secretary to restructure the institutes on the basis of the recommendations of the joint session of the Governing Councils of RIPS and IFORD, including a revision of the statutes and salary scales, as necessitated by this restructuring,

Appreciative of the high quality population specialists trained at IFORD and RIPS as well as the research work undertaken by the institutes and convinced that the requirements of the African countries in this area are far from being satisfied,

Seriously concerned about the present financial problems facing IFORD which have resulted in non-payment of salaries of local staff and other expenses in the first few months of 1988 and which threaten the present and future functioning of the institute,

Concerned also about the non-payment of contributions by the member countries of RIPS and its implications for the Institutes' restructuring programme,

Fully convinced that the idea of restructuring RIPS and IFORD as required by resolution 577 (XXI) of 19 April 1986 is highly contingent on the payment of contributions by member States,

1. Urges African Governments to continue their support of the institutes and to strengthen this by paying their arrears as well as paying their future annual contributions, regularly;

2. Further urges the member countries of IFORD to respond urgently to the financial crisis facing the Institute and to manifest their support for its proper and effective functioning by paying their 1987 and 1988 contributions;

3. Approves the new statutes of RIPS as amended by its thirteenth Governing Council;

4. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund for the continuous and valuable support to the regular programmes of RIPS and IFORD;

5. Appeals to the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to continue funding the institutes at their present levels in order to ensure their continuous and efficient service to member States;

6. Expresses also its deep appreciation to member States of the institutes and other countries and international organizations who have supported the Institutes' training and research activities administratively and financially and calls upon them to continue their support.